

# THE TIMES

No. 65,791

MONDAY JANUARY 20 1997

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## Brown aims for two-year freeze on spending

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON BROWN will today announce a two-year clampdown on public spending under Labour and warn the unions that the prolonged squeeze on the pay of six million state sector employees will go on.

The Shadow Chancellor, delivering his most austere message yet to fellow Labour politicians, union chiefs and local government leaders, is to reveal that a Labour government would freeze overall public spending for two years at the levels announced by Kenneth Clarke in the November Budget.

The totals will stay fixed at £266 billion for 1997-8 and £273 billion for 1998-9. Labour will use that fact to try to blunt the Conservative charge that it would inevitably raise taxes. In an unprecedented move that will remove an early potential source of conflict for a Blair administration, he will say that this year's annual spending review, in which ministers compete to carve the spending cake, is

Under the Brown plan every spending minister will be expected to justify every item in their budgets, making savings in the low priority areas and redirecting them to frontline needs. His decision not to hold a formal spending review this year and instead to accept the overall figure planned by the Government for 1998-9 means that the long-predicted "bloodbath" in which Labour ministers were supposed to fight each other for resources the moment a Labour government was elected, will not apparently take place.

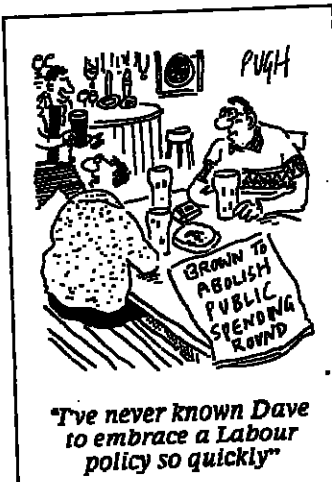
The arguments may, however, be stored up for later in the life of the Government when priorities as between departments rather than within them are changed. If Labour wins, Mr Brown's first Budget is being planned for six to eight weeks after the general election.

He will today promise a firm but fair approach to public sector pay, saying: "Just as we will resist every other unreasonable demand on the public purse, we will resist unreasonable public sector pay demands." There will be no extra money from the Government and pay increases must come from the tough limits on every department.

Mr Brown will say that Labour's guiding principles on spending are that public money should be spent efficiently and provide value and that it should be spent wisely in line with its priorities. Mr Brown is making it clear that the windfall tax on the privatised utilities will form part of his first Budget. His advisers say that there are no legal obstacles to its introduction.

Trade union reaction last night to Mr Brown's plan suggested that the Labour leadership will not face a backlash this side of an election. However, senior figures warned of the danger of struggles if an incoming Labour government takes a tougher line than the Conservatives in restraining public sector pay.

Peter Riddell, page 20



"I've never known Dave to embrace a Labour policy so quickly"

The heads of some of Britain's biggest companies will proclaim their support for a minimum wage tomorrow. Page 48

to be scrapped. Instead individual ministers will be charged with carrying out an overhaul of their own department's budget to cut spending on non-essential areas and concentrate it on meeting Labour's stated priorities.

Although the overall departmental spending limits will stay, Mr Brown will allow ministers to change priorities as soon as they can identify them. In addition, Mr Brown is to announce the EDX committee chaired by the Chancellor, which carries out the annual spending discussions, will embark on a root-and-branch review of Britain's public spending system designed to shift resources to high priority areas and reshape the distribution of spending into the next century. The EDX committee, on which senior Cabinet ministers serve, will also monitor the individual departmental reviews.

Mr Brown's announcements, to businessmen at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, mark his most striking attempt yet both to play down expectations and to convince the electorate and the City that his tough approach to spending and tax is serious.

Aides believe that his acceptance of the Government's spending figures will convince voters that Labour has no need to raise personal taxes. He will say: "These are the figures on which departments are already planning and should continue to plan." Labour councils across the country will get the same message.

## Archbishop takes a sabbatical

By Ruth Gledhill  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 500 speeches, 43 foreign trips, 44 consecrations of bishops and 220 television broadcasts, Dr George Carey, has given up his duties for two months.

Managers and stockbrokers who need a break take sabbaticals, while vicars and bishops who have preached one too many sermons go on retreat. At least, that is the general view. But after a punishing schedule

over the last few months the Archbishop has taken a leaf out of the modern manager's handbook and is taking a two-month sabbatical.

Dr Carey flew to Washington DC on Saturday for four weeks of rest and recuperation during which time, aides say, he plans to read, reflect, pray and possibly start work on a book.

However attempts to keep his precise whereabouts secret have not been entirely successful. His chaplain, the Reverend Colin Fletcher, said: "We have not

wanted to publicise where he is but lots of people have already discovered he's going to be there and have invited him to do things like speaking."

Dr Carey will be in Washington for four weeks and will spend the last three weeks of his sabbatical at Lambeth Palace.

The sabbatical year dates from the earliest church history. It was established in Mosaic Jewish tradition by the command in Deuteronomy that one year in seven should be a "sabbath" when

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Arafat returns to Hebron in triumph

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER

YASSER ARAFAT returned in triumph to Hebron yesterday after an absence of more than 30 years and declared to jubilant applause from a crowd of more than 30,000 Palestinians that it was a "liberated city".

Speaking from the balcony of the former Israeli military headquarters, he appealed to the 450 Jewish settlers in the city which came under Palestinian self-rule on Friday to help to work towards a full and final peace with Israel.

"While I stand here in Hebron, I tell the settlers we do not want a confrontation," he said. Less than two miles away, the militant settlers, living under heavy military guard, scorned his gesture, calling him a "master murderer".

Triumphant Arafat, page 9

## Village holds its alternative service

Parishioners who are boycotting their village church because their vicar divorced and then married his curate, were celebrating yesterday after their first prayer meeting proved more popular than a service conducted by the Reverend Royston Such. There was standing room only at the village hall in Ropley, Hampshire. Page 3

## Tolkien's 'Book of the Century'

The epic fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, has been voted the Book of the Century by Waterstones' customers. Names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make the top 100. Page 4

## Rifkind challenges Kohl on Europe

Malcolm Rifkind yesterday challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate. The Foreign Secretary asked the Chancellor to prove that he was not a federalist. Page 2

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## Top sports stars are targeted by letter bombers

By Adrian Lee  
AND CRAIG LORD

BRITISH sports stars Sharon Davies and Frank Bruno are believed to be among the targets of a letter-bomb campaign by the extreme right-wing group Combat 18. Other athletes in mixed-race relationships are also feared to be on a hit-list after the seizure of three packages and the arrest of seven people in Denmark.

Miss Davies, a former Olympic swimmer and now a television presenter, is married to the former Olympic athlete Derek Redmond. The retired boxer Frank Bruno has a white wife, Laura.

Scotland Yard was involved in moves to foil the plot, also aimed at left-wing activists. Officers who infiltrated far-right groups passed information to Interpol.

Danish sources said Boris Becker, the German tennis player whose wife Barbara Felten-Forst is black, was another target.

Miss Davies, 34, said yesterday that she was aware of the bombing campaign but added: "This is a police matter and I really can't say anything." She and her husband have received hate-mail from Combat 18 in the past. Her father, Terry, said: "I suppose they are easy targets but they don't let it affect them."

The intended recipients have all been alerted by police.

Saturday's arrests in Denmark — of five men and two women in their 20s — were made under the country's terrorist laws after a tip-off that explosive devices, made of nitroglycerine and concealed inside video cassettes, were being addressed there, then taken by boat to Sweden for posting to London.

Network of terror, page 4

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# Tories to remove education authorities' powers



Booth: to represent union at High Court

TORY election strategists are to target Labour-dominated local education authorities, with manifesto commitments designed to undermine Tony Blair's stance over the central issue of school standards.

Measures to be considered at next week's Chequers summit on the Tory manifesto would strip town halls of their veto over school admissions and send "hit squads" into the worst-performing authorities. Schools would be given control over virtually all of their budgets, leaving authorities to sell their services to survive.

Councils would share responsibility for planning secondary school places with a quango. This would remove an obstacle to John Major's drive for selective schooling. Mr Blair has placed edu-

■ At their Chequers manifesto summit, the Conservatives will debate proposals that councils should have to compete to sell schools their services, John O'Leary writes

tion at the head of his party's priorities, accusing the Tories of failing to tackle underachievement in schools. But primary school league tables to be published before the election will give ministers ammunition for a fresh assault on Labour's record in local government. As in secondary schools, the worst results will be found in Labour-controlled authorities.

This morning, the National Association of Head Teachers begins a High Court challenge

to the publication of the tables. The union will be represented by the barrister, Cherie Booth, QC, Mr Blair's wife, who will argue on their behalf that the tables are unfair because the results take no account of absence or the number of children excused from taking last summer's tests because of special educational needs.

If the action succeeds, the tables will not appear before the election. When they are published, however, certain inner-London boroughs and

northern authorities are likely to offer easy targets for ministers anxious to blame low standards on Labour.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has already introduced inspections of local authorities. But the Education Bill, which completed its committee stage last week, contains no sanctions against authorities deemed unsatisfactory.

A re-elected Tory government would create the concept of a "failing" authority to parallel the system for schools. In cases of failure, the Funding Agency for Schools would take over key functions, such as responsibility for admissions policies and planning new places.

The agency already has a "school improvement unit",

which has used consultants to tackle problems in six grant-maintained schools. Its role could be extended to cover failing authorities. The committee drafting the education section of the Tory manifesto has stopped short of recommending that all schools become grant-maintained, preferring to attack Labour on the issue of parental choice. The manifesto will promise schools self-government without the need to opt out.

At least 95 per cent of the money earmarked for schools would be controlled by governors, forcing local authorities to bid for contracts in virtually all areas, including school transport and provision for special educational needs.

However, some Conservatives, still hope a more radical

programme will emerge from the Chequers meeting. Right-wingers have been lobbying for vouchers to be introduced for mainstream schooling, and the supporters of opting-out want local authorities to lose their responsibility for secondary schools.

Sir Robert Balchin, the chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, said: "Self-government is impossible while local education authorities continue."

Sir Robert, who is also a member of the Funding Agency, predicted that authorities would circumvent the regulations by insisting that schools bought packages of services.

Labour said the plans were at odds with Mrs Shephard's instructions to authorities to be more active in raising

school standards. She told education officers last Friday that she was considering giving them powers to issue formal warnings to schools in danger of failure. If there was no improvement, authorities would take back control of the school from its governors.

A Labour spokesman said the party had made the original proposal for inspections of education authorities, but did not consider formal sanctions necessary because annual council elections left power with the electorate. Labour had proposed a limit of £50 per pupil for administrative costs, but ministers had taken no action in the Education Bill.

Ballot 97, page 6  
Blunkett letter, page 21

## Rifkind tells Kohl to spell out EU limits

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate.

The Foreign Secretary told the Chancellor and other leaders to prove their claim that they were not federalists. "I think the time has come really to ask them to indicate what are the limits of the integration that they seek," he said. "What would be the European Union that they would like to see in 10 or 20 years' time. In what way would that fall short of federalism?"

His comments were the first public demand from a Cabinet minister for pro-European leaders to set out their precise ambitions for the future of the Union. Pressing the need for a flexible European Union in which some countries could integrate more closely while others opted out, Mr Rifkind insisted that all member states must approve any move allowing the creation of an inner core. Without unanimity, it could not be right for core countries to have access to the EU budget, the European Court and the resources of the

European Commission to support those initiatives.

Mr Rifkind told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that he had privately urged Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, to spell out his country's long-term objectives, but it had never really been debated publicly.

His demands came on the eve of a Brussels meeting in which Britain expects support for its demand that there should be a flexible system backed by unanimous voting. British ministers claim to have the support of up to five countries for their plan. Paris and Bonn want a "flexibility chapter" written into the Treaty of Amsterdam in June that prevents a single country vetoing a flexible system.

Mr Rifkind said: "The issue of flexibility is probably the most important issue that's being discussed at the inter-governmental conference."

John Major believes that the flexibility issue will be the key to breaking the deadlock on future development of the Union. Among the main policy areas for greater flexibility are defence, immigration and asylum issues.



Police and soldiers search a field near Warminster yesterday in the hunt for Zoe Evans, missing for nine days

## Police dig in garden at Zoe's home

POLICE began digging in the front garden of Zoe Evans's home yesterday as prayers were said in local churches for the missing nine-year-old (Adrian Lee writes). Witnesses said that police officers used a spade to dig a strip 8ft long and 2ft wide in the garden of her home in Warminster, Wiltshire.

A police spokeswoman said the action was part of a systematic search of the house and surrounding area. She added that items had been found, but could not say whether they were connected with the

child's disappearance until they had been identified.

Police asked for more time to question the missing girl's parents about her suspected murder. On Saturday night, magistrates agreed a warrant extending the time that her mother, Paula Evans, 28, and stepfather Miles Evans, 23, could be detained for interview. This morning police must apply for a new warrant if the couple have not been charged or released.

Officers are investigating hundreds of possible sightings of Zoe, last seen nine

days ago. Over the weekend they questioned 6,000 people in Warminster. Shoppers were shown a video of a child walking behind a man and a woman through the town's Three Horseshoes mall — thought to be the last sighting of her. A 15ft billboard bearing her picture was towed through the streets.

Inspector Geoff Hicks admitted hopes of finding the girl alive were fading. "Given the length of time since her disappearance, I am afraid we are having to prepare ourselves for the worst."

## Social services face wave of privatisation

The £8 billion social services empire may be handed in full to charities and private companies under proposals being put forward for the Conservative manifesto. Gerry Malone, the junior Health Minister, yesterday gave the clearest hint yet that the Government was planning a large-scale privatisation of elderly people's homes, meals-on-wheels, adoption, fostering and help for the mentally handicapped. He endorsed the idea of getting "more care... for the pound."

Local authorities, which employ 234,000 people in social services departments, could be reduced to a largely administrative role. Mr Malone said on *The World This Weekend* on BBC Radio 4: "It would be ludicrous to suggest that we shouldn't be looking for opportunities in all sorts of policy areas, to extend it [privatisation] where it is sensible to do so, because it brings a lot of public benefit which the public recognise."

## IRA mortars miss

A woman motorist and two police officers escaped when the IRA fired two mortars at an RUC patrol on the outskirts of Downpatrick, Co Down, on Saturday night. An RUC spokesman said the mortars missed their target. The woman, whose car had been caught in the blast, was treated in hospital for shock. Róimé Flanagan, the chief constable of the RUC, condemned the attack and told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* that, with it, the IRA had demonstrated total disregard for the safety of the public.

## Cardinal's schools view

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, called yesterday, on BBC Radio's *Sunday* programme, for greater public spending in education and on smaller class sizes. The leader of Britain's Catholics, who recently sparked controversy by condemning abortion, insisted that smaller classes were better for pupils. A report last year by Ofsted, the schools watchdog, said that, outside the early years of schooling, class size made little difference to educational achievement.

## Tory MPs attack activists

Tory MPs criticised some of the party's most senior officials and activists for secretly considering changes to the way a leader is elected. According to BBC's *On The Record* programme, 25 chairmen and senior agents met last weekend and discussed changes which would reduce the role of MPs and give 20 per cent of the vote to the executive committee of the National Union, the party's voluntary wing. Peter Temple-Morris said the union was behaving as if the general election were already lost.

## Gun dealers seek help

Two hundred firearms dealers will meet with receivers in London today for discussions on compensation over the proposed ban on handguns. Most traders are resigned to the legislation which will outlaw all handguns above .22 calibre and force smaller weapons to be kept at secure gun clubs. Many businesses have already folded and the remainder are intent on persuading the Government to compensate retailers for loss of premises, stock and trade. The meeting will be at Westminster Central Hall.

## Thunderflash alert

Army bomb disposal experts were called to the house of royal protection officer Michael Coulton by police investigating the murder of his wife Patricia. Officers searching the house in Woking, Surrey, were believed to have found a thunderflash, an explosive device used in military training. The incident on Saturday afternoon came just hours after Mr Coulton, 52, was remanded in custody by Reading magistrates after being charged with a number of firearms offences.

## Army barracks for sale

Chelsea Barracks, home of the Coldstream Guards, is for sale and could be the first of many army bases to be privatised or redeveloped to raise money. The 37-acre Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow and the Royal Military Academy site at Woolwich are also for sale. The Ministry of Defence has decided that all three should be offered to the commercial sector under the Government's Private Finance Initiative. The ministry said security and operational needs would be paramount.

## Howard defends bugging legislation

BY JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL HOWARD insists that his controversial Police Bill strikes the right balance between protecting civil liberties and fighting serious crime. The Bill, which faces a close vote in the House of Lords tonight, would give police the right to break into private property and plant bugging devices without authorisation.

In *The Times*, the Home Secretary says that the legislation would ensure that the police were accountable. All buggings would be reviewed by a "commissioner", probably a High Court judge, who would investigate complaints. Senior lawyers and judges have attacked the Bill as a threat to civil liberties and in a letter to *The Times* today, eight senior members of the medical profession voice concern over possible infringement of the confidential relationship between doctor and patient if surgeries were bugged. Opposition divisions mean Mr Howard has a good chance of averting defeat.

Michael Howard, page 20  
Letters, page 21

## Ashdown moves to stamp out dissent

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PADDY ASHDOWN moved to head off growing dissent within his party yesterday as a Liberal Democrat MP claimed that his leader's ambitions of a Cabinet post were driving his crusade for closer ties with Labour, with whom he is having talks on a wide range of constitutional reforms.

David Alton, in a newspaper article, warned him against putting his own hopes of ministerial office in a Blair-led government ahead of the interests of the country and his own party. With his fellow MP Chris Davies, he said Mr Ashdown would not win party support for any changes to the voting system that fell short of full proportional representation.

Mr Ashdown, interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, strongly rejected the suggestion that his approach was about personal ambition and underlined that he would not agree to anything less than proportional representation.

He said that Mr Alton's article "is a travesty of all the things that I stand for, of all the things I'm trying to achieve."

## Archbishop in US for sabbatical

Continued from page 1  
land should remain fallow and all slaves and debtors be freed.

Since being elevated from Bath and Wells in 1991, Dr Carey has visited the Falklands, Turkey, Germany, Papua New Guinea, America, Malta, Kenya, Tanzania and about 30 other countries.

He has been to Rome twice to meet the Pope, has written nearly 200 articles and formally visited 20 of the 43 dioceses in the Church of England. That does not include the one-off speeches and sermons he gives in brief visits to other dioceses, which have been too numerous to count.

On top of all this, he has been scrupulous in fulfilling

his *ex officio* engagements as Archbishop, in attending the House of Bishops meetings, diocesan synods and general synods. He has hosted dinners, receptions and lunches and delivered hundreds of sermons. He has also maintained an active involvement with 300 charities and institutions he is involved with.

Dr Carey is not the first Archbishop to take a sabbatical. His predecessor, Lord Runcie, also took one of similar length about five years into the job. Dozens of clergy take sabbaticals, with the agreement of their diocesan bishop.

He is usually up and working on speeches by 6.30, says matins daily at 7.30 and normally works straight

through the evenings, usually until after 10pm, reading the latest publications on theology, politics and other issues. He has few weekends off.

"He might take the occasional afternoon to go to a football match but he has a punishing schedule. It seems to go with the territory," a spokesman said.

According to some insiders, sabbaticals are becoming increasingly common as the days when a cleric's life consisted of gentle reading in their study and a sermon once a week recede.

The Archbishop was backed by Charles Handy, an expert on the world of work, who took a sabbatical to write his first book, *Understanding Or-*

ganisations, in 1983.

Professor Handy, who is currently writing *The Hungry Spirit*, a book which emphasises the importance of the spiritual life, said: "In today's world, we all work too hard and it is very important to get away, not just to rest but to clear our minds and look at things from a greater distance. A sabbatical is not a holiday, it is a period of structured reflection."

While Dr Carey is away, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, will take the weight. Certain internal matters have been delegated to Canon Fletcher while the diocese of Canterbury is in the hands of the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Richard Llewellyn.

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## Snub to divorced vicar who married his curate

# Rebel parishioners hold service in village hall

By Emma Wilkins

A GROUP of parishioners who are boycotting their village church were celebrating yesterday after their first rival prayer meeting proved overwhelmingly more popular than a service conducted by the local vicar.

There was standing room only at the village hall in Ropley, near Winchester, where 120 parishioners worshipped together for the first time since the Rev Royston Such offended the congregation by divorcing his wife and marrying his curate.

Just a few hundred yards away at the parish church of St Peter, 24 people gathered for matins with Mr Such. He was accompanied to matins in the Norman parish church by his wife, the Rev Tara Riviere. Her curate's licence was removed 10 months ago.

Mr Such, 49, a former solicitor, has rejected calls for his resignation from parishioners and the Bishops of Basingstoke and Southampton. A move to force him from his post under the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure failed last month when the Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-John, decided not to hold an inquiry.

The rival service, which could become a regular monthly event, was led by Humphrey Carr, a solicitor who lives in the village. "I



Mr Such and his wife heading for church yesterday

must stress that it is not our purpose to be divisive or to provoke. We are not trying to set up a parallel church in this benefice," Mr Carr told the prayer meeting. "If the need is perceived, and there is sufficient interest and support, then we may be able to arrange more services. I am very pleased to see so many friends and supporters here."

Barbara Longlands, former organist and choir mistress at St Peter's, played the piano during the prayer service. "I don't go to the church any more. We used to have a good congregation before the Rev Such arrived but people would rather have their own service than go to St Peter's now. I have never known such trouble in all the 23 years I have lived here," she said.

Among those joining together in prayer and song at the village hall was John Goddard, 70, a retired army officer and former church warden. Mr Goddard, who has lived in Ropley for 40 years, resigned last month from his post at St Peter's following the Bishop of Winchester's decision not to refer parishioners' complaints to a tribunal.

While delighted with the turnout at the rival service, Mr Goddard said the whole affair left him feeling deeply sad. "I always walk past the church and it makes me very sad to think that I will not go back in there while the Rev Such is in charge," he said. "The bishop has urged us to make some kind of rapprochement but I don't think that's going to be possible. We are resolute, but

the bishop is a clever man so perhaps he will find a way to sort this out. It's up to him now," he added. "It was a tremendous service and so lovely to see all the familiar faces from the old congregation. We felt we all wanted to worship together, but not with the Rev Such because we were getting the wrong kind of leadership. I felt I couldn't, in all all honour, stay on as churchwarden under those circumstances," he added.

Mr Goddard said problems with Mr Such began before he divorced his first wife Elizabeth, the mother of his five children, to marry his curate in 1995. "It's not just about his remarriage. He was always rather autocratic. He made all sorts of changes without any consultation," Mr Goddard said.

The bishop has described tensions between the Rev Such and his parishioners in Ropley, Bishops Sutton, and West Tisted as "a wretched pastoral situation" but rejected referring the matter to a tribunal on the grounds that it would be costly, divisive and destructive to all parties.

Complaints and letters about Mr Such began in 1994 but it was only when he married his second wife in a private ceremony 30 miles away from the parish in August 1995 that matters came to a head and the Bishop of Winchester looked into the matter.



Alexander McQueen is applauded by models after his Paris show

## Eastender triumphs with Paris collection

By Heidi Brown

THE first haute couture show by Alexander McQueen for the established house of Givenchy proved beyond doubt last night that British fashion designers are now leading the world.

The "East End lad" was always an unlikely choice for such a prestigious house but the gamble has paid off. Taking over from fellow British designer Galliano, who has moved to Dior, McQueen pushed the boundaries of fashion to its limits with a collection based on Greek mythology.

His theatrical, antiquity-inspired collection resembled a costume ball and was supported by a bizarre spectacle of large hairdos and gold-tinted breasts spilling from rib-crushing corsets.

Outlandish imagery including minotaur nose rings and Pegasus feathered wings crafted into corsets shocked the more conservative French, but enthralled the more artistic-minded Americans and British.

The more artistic sensibilities of British designers are sometimes hard to translate into the staid world of haute couture, where dresses can cost up to £40,000. The customer of old for Givenchy has long left the house since the advent of John Galliano last year but a new, more adventurous customer is anticipated on the horizon.

These haute couture collections are more an exercise in publicity to promote the lucrative perfume side of the fashion business, but this is a gauge that McQueen has done his job. This should signify the sweet smell of success for McQueen. It is far from Savile Row, where he nurtured his ability as a brilliant tailor, to Paris where his show returned Givenchy to the cutting edge of fashion.

## Police fear pensioner was killed for £200

By A Staff Reporter

POLICE have begun a murder inquiry into a pensioner's death two weeks after concluding that she died from natural causes.

The investigation was reopened after the family of Daphne Cole, 83, expressed concern over pension money being missing. She had picked up £200 from a post office near her home in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, two days before her body was found.

Detectives now believe that Mrs Cole was strangled. A pathologist's report had said she died from a heart attack and the effects of bronchial pneumonia. A second post-mortem examination, by a Home Office pathologist, found injuries that were inconsistent with death by natural causes. These findings were supported by Dr Iain West of Guy's Hospital, central London, a leading pathologist.

Mrs Cole was last seen alive on Saturday January 4, when one of her grandsons took her shopping. The next day, neighbours contacted Mrs Cole's family when they saw that curtains were open and the lights still on.

Her body was found by her daughter, Verna Hamilton, and her husband. Police said the kitchen door was unlocked and the television on. A tray was by the body.

Detective Superintendent Geoff Munns, of Suffolk Police, said: "This is an appalling crime. We can only assume that Mrs Cole was murdered in her own home for a few hundred pounds."

West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, who employed the pathologist who carried out the original post-mortem examination, said it would be reviewing the matter.



The scrapped 19p stamp, top, and the 41p version



## Football fantasy was stamped out

IT WAS to have been the pinnacle of Roy of the Rovers' glittering career. The Manchester Rovers striker would have been the star of a set of stamps to commemorate England winning the Euro 96 Championship.

But Gareth Southgate's penalty miss in the semi-final against Germany meant not only England's exit, but also the scrapping of the stamps. Because no living person other than a member of the Royal Family can appear on a stamp, the honour befell Roy Race of Manchester Rovers, a comic-strip hero for more than 30 years, to capture the occasion.

The first stamp was to show Roy being called up for the tournament. Another would have depicted him scoring Alan Shearer's goal against Switzerland. However, he may yet appear if England win the World Cup next year.

Football, page 25, 28-31

## Horlick takes a break to unwind

By Carol Midgley

THE City fund manager Nicola Horlick took her first break yesterday since being suspended by Morgan Grenfell on Tuesday, and spent the day with her three youngest children.

Mrs Horlick, a mother of five, said she had been unable to eat or sleep since starting her whirlwind campaign against the German-owned bank. "I have been a bit overwrought but it's a great way to lose weight."

As she bundled Serena, 6, Rupert, 3, and Antonia, seven months, into the car, she said: "Today I am trying to have a bit of rest, but tomorrow I'll be spending all day at the offices of my lawyer, Herbert Smith." Asked if she regretted the media circus, she said: "No, because I'm trying to get justice done. I believe I should be reinstated or be given proper compensation, but I would like my job back."

She denied that she had ambitions to become a Labour MP, insisting that reports in the Express on Sunday were "rather exaggerated". "I don't belong to any political party and I have expressed no political views," she said. "A lot of my clients are local authority clients, so it would be wrong for me to do so."

Mrs Horlick has been accused of trying to poach staff from Morgan Grenfell for a rival company. Yesterday was the first time she had been seen in public without her trademark red lipstick, string of pearls and black business suit. "The idea that I have loads of labels is ludicrous," Mrs Horlick said.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20  
Lost status, page 46  
£500,000 lost, page 48

## Backroom boy's low fidelity debut goes straight to No 1

By Caitlin Moran

A RECLUSIVE computer musician last night became only the fourth person to have a debut single enter the charts at No 1, with a record he made in a makeshift studio in his bedroom.

Indian-born Jyoti Mishra was hardly greeting his phenomenal success in traditional pop-star style. Mishra, who recorded his runaway hit *Your Woman - Abort, Retry, Fail* under the name White Town, using a £30 microphone, remained shut away indoors after receiving the news at his mock-Tudor semi-detached house on an estate in Derby and refused to comment.

The success follows that of the Beatles' Anthology series which featured scratchy, ram-

shackle home demos of some of their most popular songs and encouraged public taste to become more attuned to low production values. White Town's hit could hardly be more amateur - Mishra, 28, worked alone with an eight track machine in his bedroom at his parents' home.

He did not originally plan to release the track, but was badgered by his girlfriend into having a handful of copies pressed. With the last of his money, he sent copies to five radio presenters.

Four ignored it, but Radio 1's Mark Radcliffe started playing it on his show every night. Within a month, Mishra had a deal with Chrysalis Records. White Town is

the most successful in a growing list of artists who prefer to keep things cheap.

Since the explosion of dance music in the late Eighties, stars on *Top of the Pops* are less likely to be a hard-touring, hard-drinking gang who have spent thousands of pounds on production; and more likely to be a couple of mates with some fairly cheap computers, who released the record on a small, self-financed budget.

Mishra, who taught himself to play guitar listening to Buddy Holly records, and was rejected by nearly every record company in Britain before getting his music into the charts in his own way, is merely the first of the No 1 bedroom superstars.

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# Letter bombs turn British neo-Nazis into terrorists

THE interception of letter bombs destined for targets in Britain marks a dramatic escalation in the tactics used by the extreme right-wing organisation, Combat 18.

The British-based neo-Nazi group is a shadowy alliance of a few hundred members who have previously confined their activities mainly to intimidation, rather than terrorism. Authorities in Denmark, where seven people in their early 30s have been charged with planning an international letter bombing campaign aimed at targets in London, now fear more concerted international hostilities. There is growing evidence that the

British group, which is known to include violent figures, has extended its links with neo-Nazis in Denmark, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Austria and eastern Europe.

Although Denmark has only a very small neo-Nazi movement, the country's liberal freedom of speech laws have made it a haven for foreign extremists. German neo-Nazis forced to close down printing houses in their own country have moved a few miles across the frontier into Denmark, operating from small towns and villages.

Formed in 1992, Combat 18 has been linked with a number of arson attacks and

**■ Combat 18, the extreme right-wing organisation, has been extending its links with similar groups in northern Europe, Stewart Tandler and Roger Boyes report**

assaults on opponents. At least 12 of their victims have needed hospital treatment, including two women. In the past two years, members have attempted to take over a highly profitable Nazi music industry, which has led to inter-cine violence.

The number 18 in the organisation's title stands for the first and eighth letters of the

alphabet, the initials of Adolf Hitler. The letter bomb technique is borrowed directly from neo-Nazi groups in Austria, where gangs, sometimes operating from across the border in Germany, have been targeting foreigners, gypsies or liberal politicians. Exact instructions on how to put together a letter bomb, including electronic circuits, the

right dosage of nitroglycerine and the correct size of detonator, have been in circulation for some time among Europe's neo-Nazi groups.

In Britain, supporters launched a newspaper called *Target*. It has been used to identify anti-racist campaigners, left-wing opponents and journalists who have attacked them. Addresses have been published and a number of homes have received hate mail or had bricks thrown at windows. Combat 18 has also used the Internet to make contact with groups in Europe.

Yesterday Monika Akabusi, German-born wife of the former British Olympic runner

Kriss Akabusi, spoke of the problems of a mixed-race marriage. She said racism in her homeland was now intolerable. "We had many more problems when we lived in Germany, anything you can imagine. Marrying someone of a different colour was not the thing a blonde, blue-eyed German should do. We had problems finding anywhere to live and they told us exactly what the reason was."

"In this country when I am with Kriss I don't experience much racism — here he has got a different status because he is so well known — but when I am with our children the true feelings sometimes

come through. My children have been turned away because of their colour."

Mrs Akabusi, who has lived in England for 12 years, said: "It is getting worse in Germany. My family there have told us it is not the time to come to visit because of the racial problems." She said her husband, also 38, had received letters from black people telling him he had let them down by marrying a white woman.

"It works both ways," she said. Derek Redmond, another former British Olympic athlete and the husband of the swimmer Sharron Davies, has spoken in the past of receiving hate mail. "We have

been told there are extremist magazines which have had pictures of Sharron and me with guns to our heads."

One of the most celebrated victims of racism in Germany is the tennis player Boris Becker, who is married to a black woman, Barbara Felber. The couple are considering leaving Germany because they fear they are being targeted by neo-Nazis.

The German postal service has long been alerted to report suspicious packages mailed from Denmark. But no such controls exist on mail that originates in Sweden, from where the letter bombs for Britain were to be posted.

## Tolkien wins title Lord of the Books by popular acclaim

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT AND ERICA WAGNER, LITERARY EDITOR

THE epic fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, has been voted the Book of the Century by the buying public. Many critically acclaimed names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make it into the top 100 list selected by the 25,000 voters.

George Orwell's dystopian 1984 and his political satire *Animal Farm* reached second and third places respectively, followed by James Joyce's *Ulysses*, though many of those who voted for this dense novel may not actually have read it.

More than 5,000 titles were nominated in a national survey conducted in the autumn by Waterstone's, the booksellers, and Channel 4's *Book Choice* programme. The public was invited to suggest up to five books.

Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, expressed disbelief at Tolkien's win. "It's a little bit suspicious. It's like Mr Major coming out as the most popular man," he said. He suggested that the author's fans might have orchestrated a campaign, a charge rejected by Martin Grossel, university lecturer in chemistry and leading light of Oxford's Tolkien Society. Tol-



Tolkien: wrote popular epic of good and evil

and J.B. Priestley were among many who had been overlooked, she added.

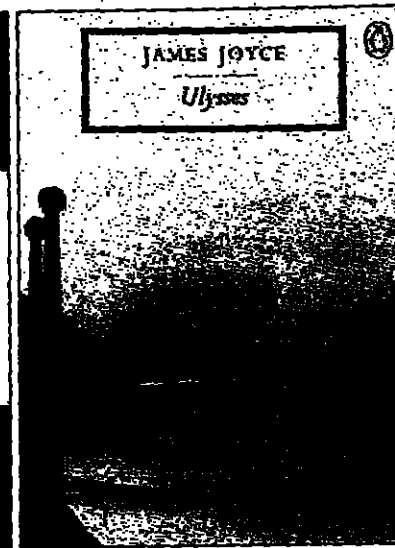
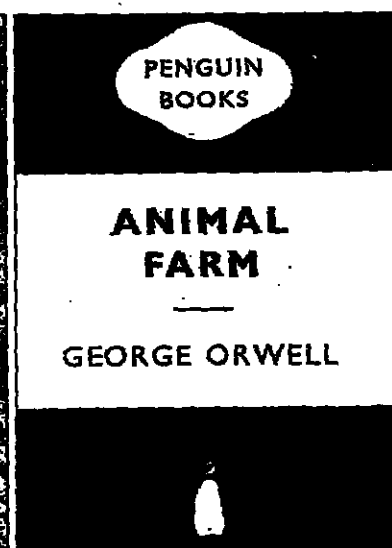
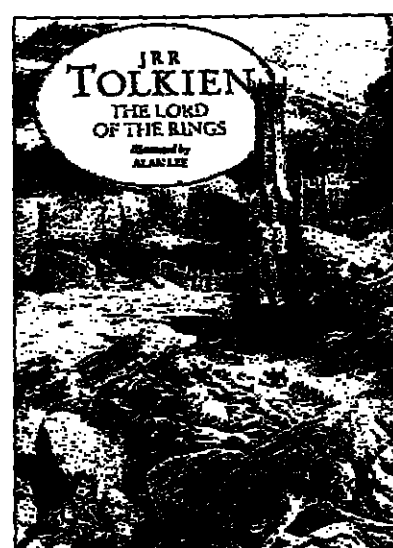
While Kingsley Amis made the list with *Lucky Jim*, his son Martin was omitted. Some bestselling authors such as Jeffrey Archer did not make it.

Ross Shimmion, chief executive of the Library Association, said: "It seems to me a very sound selection. It's quite interesting that it's very different from the public lending rights figures."

Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*, an account of three generations of Chinese women surviving the nationalist and communist regimes, was the highest non-fiction entry at No 11. It was one of only 13 books on the list by women.

Alan Giles, managing director of Waterstone's, said: "Memories fade and therefore there's an over-representation of more recent writing. If we were to conduct the survey again in ten years, I wonder how many of those would still be on the list."

*The Lord of the Rings* is a tale of good and evil, the story of Frodo the Hobbit's search to return the Ring of Power to its source. First published in 1954, it achieved cult status in the Sixties and has remained in print ever since. On



Winners: *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Ulysses* by James Joyce and *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller

Booktrack's list of the top 5,000 bestsellers in Britain. *The Lord of the Rings* currently stands at No 537, selling 155 copies a week. Its author, born in 1892, was Merton Professor of English Language and Literature at Oxford, and an authority on Anglo-Saxon literature. It is perhaps the escapism which its mythology offers that has provided its enduring appeal, the same escapism that has kept Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek* going for decades.

Malcolm Bradbury, Professor Emeritus of American Literature at the University of East Anglia, said that, while he would not consider it a great work of literature, he was not surprised at its triumph. "It has a very special cultural value," he said. "It's a book that crosses the magic line between childhood and adulthood."

*Book Choice* will focus on the survey in its programme tonight at 7.55pm.

|                                                               |                                                                      |                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> J.R.R. Tolkien                 | 36 <i>Beloved</i> Toni Morrison                                      | 72 <i>The Power and the Glory</i> Graham Greene                         |
| 2 <i>1984</i> George Orwell                                   | 37 <i>Poison</i> A.S. Byatt                                          | 73 <i>The Stand</i> Stephen King                                        |
| 3 <i>Animal Farm</i> George Orwell                            | 38 <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Joseph Conrad                            | 74 <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> Erich Maria Remarque           |
| 4 <i>Ulysses</i> James Joyce                                  | 39 <i>Passage to India</i> E.M. Forster                              | 75 <i>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</i> Roddy Doyle                             |
| 5 <i>Catch-22</i> Joseph Heller                               | 40 <i>Waterhouse</i> Richard Adams                                   | 76 <i>Matilda</i> Roald Dahl                                            |
| 6 <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> J.D. Salinger                 | 41 <i>Sophie's World</i> Jostein Gaarder                             | 77 <i>American Psycho</i> Bret Easton Ellis                             |
| 7 <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> Harper Lee                     | 42 <i>The Name of the Rose</i> Umberto Eco                           | 78 <i>Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas</i> Hunter S. Thompson             |
| 8 <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> Gabriel Garcia Marquez | 43 <i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i> Gabriel Garcia Marquez         | 79 <i>A Brief History of Time</i> Stephen Hawking                       |
| 9 <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> John Steinbeck                   | 44 <i>Rebecca</i> Daphne du Maurier                                  | 80 <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> Roald Dahl                          |
| 10 <i>Trainspotting</i> Irvine Welsh                          | 45 <i>The Remains of the Day</i> Kazuo Ishiguro                      | 81 <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> D.H. Lawrence                         |
| 11 <i>Wild Swans</i> Jung Chang                               | 46 <i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> Milan Kundera            | 82 <i>The Bonfire of the Vanities</i> Tom Wolfe                         |
| 12 <i>The Great Gatsby</i> F. Scott Fitzgerald                | 47 <i>Birdsong</i> Sebastian Faulks                                  | 83 <i>The Complete Cookery Course</i> Delia Smith                       |
| 13 <i>Lord of the Flies</i> William Golding                   | 48 <i>Howards End</i> E.M. Forster                                   | 84 <i>An Evil Cradling</i> Brian Keenan                                 |
| 14 <i>On the Road</i> Jack Kerouac                            | 49 <i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Evelyn Waugh                          | 85 <i>The Rainbow</i> D.H. Lawrence                                     |
| 15 <i>Brave New World</i> Aldous Huxley                       | 50 <i>Suitable Boy</i> Vikram Seth                                   | 86 <i>Down and out in Paris and London</i> George Orwell                |
| 16 <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> Kenneth Grahame             | 51 <i>Dune</i> Frank Herbert                                         | 87 <i>2001 - A Space Odyssey</i> Arthur C. Clarke                       |
| 17 <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> A.A. Milne                          | 52 <i>Prayer for Owen Meany</i> John Irving                          | 88 <i>The Tin Drum</i> Günther Grass                                    |
| 18 <i>The Color Purple</i> Alice Walker                       | 53 <i>Primo and Patrice</i> Susan Sontag                             | 89 <i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i> Alexander Solzhenitsyn |
| 19 <i>The Hobbit</i> J.R.R. Tolkien                           | 54 <i>Doctor Zhivago</i> Boris Pasternak                             | 90 <i>Long Walk to Freedom</i> Nelson Mandela                           |
| 20 <i>The Outsider</i> Albert Camus                           | 55 <i>The Gormenghast Trilogy</i> Mervyn Peake                       | 91 <i>The Selfish Gene</i> Richard Dawkins                              |
| 21 <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> C.S. Lewis     | 56 <i>Cider with Rosie</i> Laurie Lee                                | 92 <i>Jurassic Park</i> Michael Crichton                                |
| 22 <i>The Trial</i> Franz Kafka                               | 57 <i>The Bell Jar</i> Sylvia Plath                                  | 93 <i>The Alexandria Quartet</i> Lawrence Durrell                       |
| 23 <i>Game with the Wind</i> Margaret Mitchell                | 58 <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Margaret Atwood                        | 94 <i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> Alan Paton                           |
| 24 <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> Douglas Adams  | 59 <i>Testament of Youth</i> Vera Brittain                           | 95 <i>High Fidelity</i> Nick Hornby                                     |
| 25 <i>Midnight's Children</i> Salman Rushdie                  | 60 <i>The Magus</i> John Fowles                                      | 96 <i>The Vanishing Act</i> Doyle                                       |
| 26 <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>                             | 61 <i>Brighton Rock</i> Graham Greene                                | 97 <i>The BFG</i> Roald Dahl                                            |
| 27 <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> Anthony Burgess                  | 62 <i>The Ragged Dicks</i> Philip Roth                               | 98 <i>Earthly Powers</i> Anthony Burgess                                |
| 28 <i>Sons and Lovers</i> D.S. Lawrence                       | 63 <i>The Master and Margarita</i> Mikhail Bulgakov                  | 99 <i>Claudius</i> Robert Graves                                        |
| 29 <i>To the Lighthouse</i> Virginia Woolf                    | 64 <i>Tales of the City</i> Armistead Mauphi                         | 100 <i>The Horse Whisperer</i> Nicholas Evans                           |
| 30 <i>If This is a Man</i> Primo Levi                         | 65 <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> John Fowles                  |                                                                         |
| 31 <i>Lolita</i> Vladimir Nabokov                             | 66 <i>Captain Corcoran's Maudlin</i> Louis de Bernieres              |                                                                         |
| 32 <i>The Wasp Factory</i> Iain Banks                         | 67 <i>Slaughterhouse 5</i> Kurt Vonnegut                             |                                                                         |
| 33 <i>Remembrance of Things Past</i> Marcel Proust            | 68 <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i> Robert M. Pirsig |                                                                         |
| 34 <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> Roald Dahl        | 69 <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i> Robert M. Pirsig |                                                                         |
| 35 <i>Of Mice and Men</i> John Steinbeck                      | 70 <i>Lucky Jim</i> Kingsley Amis                                    |                                                                         |
|                                                               | 71 <i>Stephen King</i>                                               |                                                                         |

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### Quick snip gives new hope to the infertile

By JEREMY LAURANCE

INFERTILE men have been given new hope of fathering children by a ten-minute operation developed at a London clinic. The technique, which could help thousands with zero sperm counts, involves removing a tiny piece of tissue from the testis. The operation can be done under local anaesthetic quicker than a vasectomy.

Once removed, the tissue is divided into five imm sections which are individually frozen. The sections can then be unfrozen as required and individual sperm extracted.

The process, pioneered in Germany and developed at the Churchill Clinic in London, is simpler than the existing technique, which uses microsurgery to remove sperm from the testes and involves an operation of between two and four hours under general anaesthetic.

Rajat Goswami, director of the inventory fertilisation unit at the Churchill Clinic said that testicular tissue had been taken from 16 men, of whom 14 had been found to have live active sperm. Six had IVF treatment with their wives, involving injecting the sperm directly into the egg. Two of the women became pregnant.

The method was suitable only for use in conjunction with the injection method of IVF known as intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) because the number of sperm retrieved was too small for normal IVF. About 20,000 couples a year undergo IVF, which costs between £800 and £2,000 per cycle of treatment.

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From crown to shroud, a royal inventory of 100,000 items is rescued from oblivion

## Richly detailed list shows Henry VIII as wealthiest monarch

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

HENRY VIII has been branded as the original shopaholic after the first study of a long-forgotten inventory of the 100,000 possessions he left behind. He is also revealed to have been the richest monarch in English history.

Henry had an income of £300,000 a year, when the next wealthiest people in the land received £6,000 a year and the average daily wage was 2½ pence. The contents of his palaces were worth a similar sum to his income, as were his navy and forts and his military stores.

But perhaps even more remarkable than the catalogue of opulence is the obsessive chronicling of Henry's ordinary possessions. Clusters for the royal toilet, chamber pots, bed ornaments, musical and scientific instruments, clocks, even stacks of used tennis balls and a cushion stick, are solemnly included. Two volumes of the



Starkey, five-year task

inventory were bought by the Society of Antiquaries in 1792 with the intention of publishing and the other two are in the British Library.

The task of transcribing all four volumes of the elaborate script and indexing 18,000 entries, covering more than 100,000 items, has now been completed on computer by a team of scholars led by Dr David Starkey of the London School of Economics. The project, which has taken five

years, has been finished to coincide with the 450th anniversary this month of Henry's death.

Dr Starkey said: "On the one hand it shows a mad sense of order and on the other the sheer prodigious quantity of Henry's possessions. He was the original shopaholic. Everything was bought, and bought in quantity, and everything was bought to be used to give the impression of wealth."

All that the king owned when he died in 1547 was fastidiously listed on the finest linen paper by an army of scribes. As he was being succeeded by a minor, Edward VI, it was decided to assess the exact state of the royal coffers. Nothing that was Henry's, from his crown to the bandages in which he wrapped his ulcerated legs, has been missed.

The document, which took Tudor officials three years to compile and which lay neglected for more than four centuries, is expected to revolutionise the study of the period and to give a boost to the market for 16th century artefacts.

Where Henry was once criticised for squandering his income, the new research claims his hoarding endowed the Tudor and Stuart dynasties. His riches make those of modern monarchs look distinctly modest. The 18,000 entries dwarf the 5,000 of which Charles I's inventory consists.

The list starts where one might expect: "I item: the kinges crowne of golde". Then



Henry holding court with his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, depicted by the Victorian artist Sir John Gilbert

the reader is led through a palace by palace, tour of Henry's jewels, plate, tapestries, cannon, armour, even horses and his entire navy.

"It is staggering wealth," Dr Starkey said. "The only other king to come even close was Richard III. It was unbelievable acquisitiveness with the purpose of displaying an air of magnificence to convince enemies that England was a country to be reckoned with."

"Each time he had a great ceremony, for example a reception for a major ambassador, he would get the Tudor equivalent of interior designers in and redesign the palace with his treasures. Fashions changed very quickly and Henry was very fashion-conscious."

Some of Henry's stockpiling came from the dissolution of the monasteries but much more came from the exercise he destroyed. "A lot came from Cardinal Wolsey, the Duke of Buckingham, the Duke of Norfolk and others. It really must have been like going to bed with ghosts, all the possessions of the people whose heads he had cut off," Dr Starkey said.

"It is generally believed that Henry squandered his wealth. But what we now realise is that what he left was a major achievement. He left an endowment to the monarchy which lasted 100 years."

Browsing through the inventory one comes across references to such glories as "two olde rotten trussing sheets full of holes" and "one

sett of chesemen of woode in a box of wood foure of theym being broken".

Many of the items, including Henry's crown, have disappeared. The collar Henry is wearing in Holbein's cartoon in the National Portrait Gallery has also vanished. But scholars are delighted to have a full description: "Item: a collar set with IX large balaces [rubies] the Xth balace standing in the top of the Kinges crowne made against the coronation with X frier knottes in every knott XVI perles."

The inventory presents the prospect of "finding" Henry's possessions. Already a small gold spaul in the Victoria and Albert Museum, previously believed to be a fastening for a costume, is listed as a

"whistell for the tete and ears" — a pick for the royal teeth and ears.

Dr Starkey said: "I expect there will be a flood of re-identifications and the value of 16th century items are going to be transformed. Their value could soar by three times."

Even the burial apparel in which the king was wrapped was deemed too valuable to be allowed to rot with him. The robes were removed and later dutifully recorded by the inventory men.

An exhibition on the inventory, featuring one of the four volumes, will open at the National Portrait Gallery on January 28, the anniversary of Henry's death.

Leading article, page 21

## No sweet ending for yachting survivor

By A STAFF REPORTER

CHOCOLATE companies are refusing to be associated with Tony Bullimore and the "little bit of chocolate" that helped him to survive for four days in the Southern Ocean — unless it can be proved that their product was truly the one that sustained him.

Agents for the rescued yachtsman had approached companies saying that, for £20,000, Mr Bullimore, 38, would "remember" their product as the one he used.

Mars said: "We're delighted he's been rescued, but he should tell the truth. If that includes a Mars bar, fine, but what's good for us is good for the industry and if he ate Cadbury's Dairy Milk we want him to say that."

Hilary Parsons, of Nestlé, agreed that any deal had to feature the genuine article. Masters International, an agency representing sports people, had approached Nestlé mentioning that Drifter and KitKat were aboard the yacht, but "the proposal was not appealing, especially when they began to mention other companies". She added: "It would have been a nice line for Drifter had it been the brand that was eaten, but you've got to be truthful on these occasions. We're not in contact with them now."

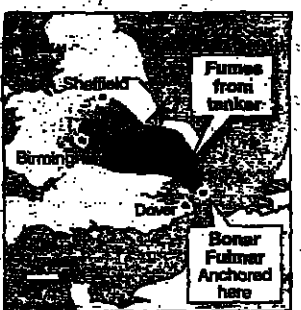
Tony Bilborough, of Cadbury, also acknowledged that Masters International had approached his company, which had originally been interested, but only if one of its products had genuinely been used by Mr Bullimore. "It's a credibility issue," he said. "We didn't want to just buy his association. It's now been a few days since we heard from them and we're not really interested any more."

## Whiff of the sea stinks out Middle England

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

METEOROLOGISTS were baffled yesterday by the source of strange smells wafting across the middle of Britain. They eventually concluded that unusual weather conditions were funneling petrol fumes more than 200 miles from the spot in the English Channel where two tankers had collided.

Police in Cheshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands received complaints from hundreds of members of the public who said they could smell petrol fumes. Some said that the



odour was of aviation fuel.

It seems the culprit was the *Bona Fulmar*, a tanker that had been leaking unleaded petrol after being in a collision with the Mexican chemical tanker *Teodilo* in fog on Saturday night. It had been anchored 31 miles northeast of

Dover. No one was injured. Dover Coastguard said the spillage would not reach the English coast, as the petrol would evaporate naturally. "There is no danger to marine wildlife or to beaches, and the danger of explosion has reduced dramatically."

Work continued yesterday on cleaning up thousands of tons of petrol which split into the sea when the hull and tank of the 47,000-ton *Bona Fulmar* were ruptured. Salvage experts and rescue workers were pumping inert gas into the vessel's damaged tank to limit the risk of thousands of tons of petrol exploding near the coast.

## Nun flees town she tried to help

By JOEL WOLCHOVER

A NUN has been forced to leave the deprived community she tried to help after her home was burgled 35 times.

Sister Josefa Norris, 53, is leaving Leigh, Greater Manchester, eight years after receiving permission from the Vatican to live there as a community worker. She set up a workshop to take young people off the streets and a literacy scheme for adults.

Raiders recently stole her computer, containing 14 years' academic research on poverty and illiteracy. After suffering 18 burglaries in as many months, she had moved, only to be burgled again. The premises of a business she set up to employ local youths have been smashed and her car has been broken into many times. "Burglars think that because I'm well-spoken I must be wealthy," she said. "They see me as a frail old woman living alone in a house with rich pickings. In fact, I survive on invalidity benefit."

Sister Josefa, who pities the thieves, saying they may be driven to crime by the cost of drug habits, is moving to Sheffield. She will continue to pray for the people of Leigh.

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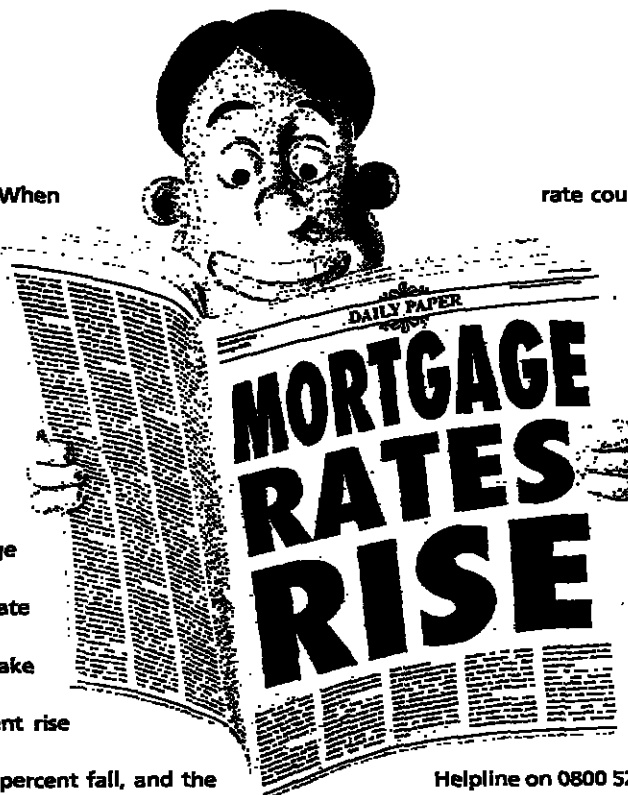
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# BALLOT '97

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 1: Education

## Where the fiercest battle for votes will be fought

AT LAST October's Labour Party conference, Tony Blair said he had three priorities for government: education, education and education. Glimpicking aside, the Labour leader knew that he was addressing one of the prime concerns of voters. In a MORI poll, 51 per cent of those asked said that education would be very important in deciding their vote. This ranks it second only to health.

When pollsters ask which party has the best health policies, respondents give Labour a six to one lead over the Tories. But education is a slightly different matter.

Although Labour's policies on education are preferred to those of the Tories and the Liberal Democrats, their lead is smaller than on health — and shrinking. In 1995, of voters who said that education was very important to them, 53 per cent

favoured Labour's policies, with 13 per cent for the Tories and 9 per cent for the Lib Dems. By 1996, Labour's score had fallen to 46 per cent and the Conservatives had risen to 15 per cent. The gap is still wide, but the Tories believe that they can make political capital out of their differences with Labour.

Although Labour opposed almost every Tory reform to education — such as the introduction of tests, league tables and grant-maintained schools — new Labour accepts virtually all of them. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, prides himself on taking the side of parents, rather than teachers, unlike his predecessor, Ann Taylor.

Mr Blunkett is tough on standards, homework, discipline and bad teaching, and first came up with some of the ideas that his

counterpart, Gillian Shephard, has since adopted. But on two issues there is a chasm between them: selection and assisted places.

At the 1995 Labour Party conference, Mr Blunkett managed to persuade a resolute audience to accept that grant-maintained schools would stay, albeit renamed "foundation" schools. But the quid pro quo was a promise to end selection. Since then, the party has rowed back a little: the 161 existing grammar schools would be turned into comprehensives only if enough local parents signed a petition calling for a ballot and then voted against selection. Remaining schools, though, would be allowed to select only a small proportion of children on grounds of aptitude for subjects such as music. Labour would repeal the Bill currently going through Parliament which

#### THE POLITICS

allows grant-maintained schools to select up to 50 per cent of pupils, and others up to 15 per cent.

The Tories will capitalise in the election campaign on Labour and Lib Dem opposition to selection. Their manifesto is likely to include plans for yet more selection and greater independence from local councils for schools. Both opposition parties are also against the latter, between them they control most education authorities.

The Tories say that grammar schools give academic children a better chance of success. Labour claims that selection is fine for those children who win places in good schools, but it condemns the rest to a second-class education, and it labels children as "failures"

from the age of 11. The party would rather see setting by ability in comprehensives.

Public opinion on selection is a little ambiguous. While the most recent poll, by Harris, found 54 per cent in favour of a return to grammar schools and the 11-plus, with 37 per cent against, the enthusiasm for selection was greatest among those aged over 45. The 35 to 44-year-old age group, who are most likely to have children of secondary school age, opposed selection by a small margin.

Assisted places, which give bright children from poor families the chance to go to private schools, are also politically contentious. The Tories are extending them to prep schools; Labour and the Lib Dems would phase them out, honouring existing places, but offering no new ones. Labour says that assisted

places help only "the few", while the money could be better spent reducing class sizes for infant school pupils. The Conservatives say that Labour is motivated by class envy — and that the money raised would anyway not cover the cost of ensuring that no infant class has more than 30 pupils. According to MORI, 64 per cent of Lib Dem supporters and 55 per cent of intending Labour voters approve of assisted places.

Apart from those two divisive issues, there is now far less to choose between the main parties on education than there was at the last election. The Lib Dems are still the only party to promise extra money for schools, financed by a penny of the basic rate of income tax, if necessary. Labour would spend on education any money it saved by getting the unemployed back to

work, but those savings could take years to materialise.

One big difference remains, but it is a human one. If Labour wins, all its Cabinet ministers with children will have sent them to state schools, and most will have been frustrated by the experience. Yet today's Conservative Cabinet is dominated by parents of privately educated children.

This cannot help but affect politicians' thinking. As George Walden, a former Tory Education Minister once said, if his colleagues' children were at state schools, "our breakfast tables would be educational battlegrounds, as our wives described in lugubrious detail the shortcomings of state schools and insisted we do something about them".

Leading article and Letters, page 21

## Tories may miss out on the fruits of reform

MOST of what the Conservatives have done to reform education in the past 17 years has been with the aim of raising standards. Since 1988 there has been an education Bill going through Parliament virtually every year. Almost all of the reforms now have cross-party support and some are being copied abroad.

The percentage of pupils gaining good qualifications has risen sharply. Yet standards of literacy and numeracy have barely changed since 1979. Indeed, many believe that basic educational standards have actually fallen.

The evidence for this is mainly anecdotal: secondary school head teachers saying that their new 11-year-olds are worse at reading, or physics dons complaining about the mathematics skills of undergraduates. There is a tendency for each generation to believe that subsequent ones are worse educated. The truth is as likely to be that they are educated differently.

Maths and science are good test cases; they are the easiest subjects in which to make international comparisons. In the early 1980s there was concern that, while schoolchildren understood the basic rules of maths, they were bad at applying them to real-world problems. The curriculum was changed to incorporate more applied work, such as statistics and probability. The result is that English children now tend to perform better in these areas. But they are worse at number work, by which an older generation is more likely to judge them.

There is, however, some evidence of slippage relative to other countries. The latest international maths and science study found that English 13-year-olds scored above the international average for data representation, analysis and probability, but below the

#### THE RECORD

average for number work, geometry, algebra, measurement and proportionality. Overall, they dropped from three points above the mean in 1990 to nearly three points below in 1995, ranking 19th out of 27 countries. Our best mathematicians are among the highest scorers, but lower-ability students tend to perform more poorly than in other countries, dragging the average down. This wide discrepancy between the best and the worst seems to be a characteristic of state education in Britain.

Last week's international numeracy study of 16 to 60-year-olds put Britain at the bottom of the league of seven developed countries, lagging well behind Australia in sixth place. The age group that had most recently left school did even worse than its elders. Science shows a more cheering picture than maths. Here the English were sixth out of 27 in the international maths and science study, scoring 6 per cent better than average compared with 2 per cent in 1990. The Government's Skills Audit, published recently, found that new British recruits to the workforce scored highly on information technology skills, just behind Germany and Japan, but ahead of Singapore, America and France.

Literacy is hard to compare internationally, but easier to compare over time. The National Foundation for Educational Research has found that reading standards among 10 to 11-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds have changed little since 1945. Among six to eight-year-olds, though, standards fell slightly in the late 1980s. For writing there was no overall change in the 1980s. But even if standards are



Seven-year-olds taking national curriculum tests, which so far have had a negligible effect on raising standards

not falling, with the growing competitive challenge, Britain needs to be improving, not just standing still. The Skills Audit found this country performing badly in most areas compared with Singapore, France and Germany, generally at the bottom of the table with America. Britain's main achievement is to send a high proportion of pupils to university: one in nine in 1979. But the "tail" of the school system is still relatively poorly qualified.

Since the late 1980s the Government has introduced a raft of measures, including the national curriculum, testing at seven, 11 and 14, league tables, opt-out schools, and reforms of teacher training. Why have these not made more of a difference?

The educational establishment has shown resistance to change, from the Department for Education down to teachers in individual schools. People such as Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, who call for a return to more effective methods of teaching, are vilified by pro-

gressive, child-centred educationists. The latter's ideology has prevailed at teacher-training colleges.

The culture is changing, though. Gradually teachers and schools are coming round to the need for more rigour and for higher expectations. The information provided to parents by league tables has put more pressure on schools to succeed academically.

There has, after all, been a substantial rise in the number of GCSE and A-level passes. For instance, in 1988-89, 28.7 per cent of 16-year-olds gained GCSE passes at grades A to C in English, maths and another subject. By 1994-95, the figure had risen to 35.2 per cent. Similarly, more pupils stay on to do A levels and the pass rate has risen from 68 per cent in 1980 to 86 per cent.

Does this mean that students are better educated and working harder? Or that the exams have become easier? The evidence is mixed. The fact that the pass rate for Scottish Highers (the equivalent of A levels) rose by only 4 cent in the same period might

suggest an element of grade inflation in England and Wales, with markers becoming more lenient or exam papers becoming less challenging. A comparison of English language O levels in 1980 with GCSEs in 1993 and 1994 found that pupils who were awarded C grades at GCSE would probably have been graded D or E by O-level examiners. Yet a more recent study of A levels by Ofsted, the inspection body, and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, found little evidence of easier exams or of more lenient marking. It was, however, hampered by a shortage of answer papers from earlier years.

Degree inflation is almost certainly a problem. The much higher numbers of students entering higher education ought to suggest a decline in the percentage winning firsts or upper seconds. Instead there has been a big rise. Nearly 60 per cent were awarded one of the top two grades in 1993, compared with just over 40 per cent in 1973. At GCSE and A level,

though, some of the improvement may be down to teachers being more focused on getting good results. Pupils may be better motivated, too: keener on winning a university place and more aware of the importance of qualifications in the job market.

The politicians' task of improving standards is made harder by the slipperiness of central control and the time that it takes to make any difference. As Kenneth Clarke once said, the Education Secretary is not in charge of a single school. Levers can be pulled from the centre, but by the time their effect is felt at the periphery, the influence may be negligible.

Worst of all for politicians used to working on an electoral cycle, any improvement from their policies may not be seen for a generation. Although an expert outsider would probably declare the Tory legacy of reform to have been broadly sensible, if Labour wins the election, it could be Tony Blair who reaps the political rewards of Conservative policies.

#### GILLIAN SHEPHARD

Age: 56  
Education: North Walsham High School for Girls (grammar); St Hilda's College, Oxford (MA in modern languages)

Experience: education officer, schools inspector, lecturer, chairman of Norfolk County Council education committee, Education Secretary since 1994

Children: Two stepchildren educated at state schools

Politics: Major loyalist and friend; pragmatic and un-ideological; appointed to restore calm after the stormy years of John Patten; criticised by the Right, who



would like her to be more radical.  
Performance: Witty in private, steady in public. Solid but uninspiring speaker

#### DAVID BLUNKETT

Age: 49  
Education: Royal Normal College for the Blind, Shrewsbury, followed by night school and day release. Degree in politics, Sheffield University

Experience: lecturer, leader Sheffield City Council, Shadow Education Secretary since 1994

Children: three at local comprehensive

Politics: has moved from the Left to the Centre; a social conservative who educated himself. Sees education as an instrument of social justice. Hugely popular in the party, less so with



teaching unions. Trusted by Blair.  
Performance: tenacious and determined. Competent in the Commons

Read my lips — no selection by exam or interview under a Labour government. David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary

If parents want grammar schools in every town — so do I, and they shall have them. John Major

Insufficient resources, now threaten the provision of education in the state school sector. Draft memo prepared for Gillian Shephard for submission to Cabinet

I want a state education system in Britain so good, so attractive, that the parents choose to put behind the educational apartheid of the past, private and state. Tony Blair

If education's a passion for Labour, it's a passion that dare not speak its results. John Major

There should be zero tolerance of failure in Britain's schools. Tony Blair

I approve of this rise in educational consumerism. Gillian Shephard

With a Labour government, education will have greater status than ever before... Education should be a leading office of state, comparable to the other departments which have traditionally had that title. Tony Blair

Good schools can be a lifeline out of poverty, the ladder to a whole new life. John Major

#### CONSERVATIVES



include pledge to slim down national curriculum for greater emphasis on three Rs.  
■ Secondary: selection to be increased. Make it easier for schools to become grammars and for comprehensives to have "grammar streams". Grant-maintained schools will be able to select up to half their pupils by ability without asking permission. Manifesto will probably bring in even more selection and greater independence for schools from local education authorities (LEAs). There may be takeovers of "failing" LEAs and a reduction in the powers of all LEAs. A levels more rigorous and exam boards reduced.

■ Further: learning credits, extending entitlement to education or training to the age of 21, will help colleges to compete with school sixth-forms. Expansion to continue.  
■ Higher: kicked into touch by setting up National Commission on Higher Education, chaired by Sir Ron Dearing. Will report a few months after election. Greater concentration of university research.

■ Adult: refresher courses to improve basic skills. Career Development Loans to be promoted for vocational training.  
■ Teachers: Training Agency to devise new curriculum for initial teacher training. Qualification for head teachers.  
■ Private: Assisted Places Scheme being extended to prep schools.

#### LABOUR



■ Nursery: mixture of state and private provision for all four-year-olds whose parents want it. Existing vouchers to be honoured. Future ones scrapped. Childcare to be added to nursery education.  
■ Primary: assessment on entry. More focus on three Rs. Classes no more than 30 for first three years. Encourage phonics in reading and whole-class teaching for maths. Encourage setting by ability within classes. All 11-year-olds to reach chronological reading age. At least 30 minutes' homework a night for 7 to 11s. Summer literacy camps.  
■ Secondary: five GCSEs at grade A to C as target for all. Aim for 80 per cent to stay on after 16. Grant-maintained schools to be renamed "foundation" schools. Local ballots, if parents want, on existing grammars. Setting by ability in and acceleration for brightest. Specialisation by schools encouraged. At least 90 minutes of homework a night. Homework centres set up. A levels kept, but a mix of academic and vocational encouraged. Failing schools to be taken over by successful neighbouring head.

■ Further: at least six hours a week skills education for 16 and 17-year-olds in work.

■ Higher: replace mix of grants, loans and parental contributions with single contribution repaid over 20 years through national insurance. Check degree standards.

■ Adult: individual learning accounts to help adults to educate themselves. "University for Industry" on Internet.  
■ Teachers: should be easier to sack bad ones. Best become Advanced Skills Teachers on higher pay. Set up General Teaching Council. Training to be less ideological.

■ Private: no VAT on fees. Must contribute to community to retain charitable status. Phase out assisted places.

#### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



■ Nursery: for all three and four-year-olds. Early years to have first claim on extra £2 billion for education. Working or in-training parents get tax relief on childcare.  
■ Primary: reception classes no bigger than 30 — target for all classes. national curriculum slimmed and replaced. Modern languages "where practicable". Tests replaced by Record of Achievement — children to record of achievement — children to be entered for tests when ready. £500 million for repairs to primary and secondary schools.

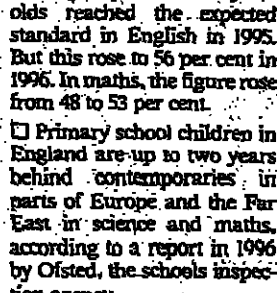
■ Secondary: return grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges to "light-touch" local education authorities (LEAs). Opposed to selection. Let communities decide on existing grammars. Increase independence of schools within LEAs. Special needs include very able children. GCSE and A levels replaced by National Certificates, with academic and vocational qualifications.

■ Further: school-to-work and apprenticeship programmes encouraged. At least two days a week off-job training or education for 16 to 19-year-olds in work. All without jobs trained by local Tecs.

■ Higher: all fees paid. Maintenance loans could be paid back through national insurance.  
■ Adult: learning accounts to pay for more education and training.

■ Teachers: General Teaching Council to control entry and practice. More in-service training. Salary structure based on achievement and responsibility. Poor teachers retrained or dismissed.  
■ Private: charitable status extended to state schools. No VAT on fees. Assisted places phased out, but LEA bursaries for special needs or talents.

#### Q Which party has the best policies on education?



Base: All those who thought education a very important issue. Source: MORI

■ Only 48 per cent of 11-year-olds reached the expected standard in English in 1995. But this rose to 56 per cent in 1996. In maths, the figure rose from 48 to 53 per cent.

■ Primary school children in Britain are up to two years behind contemporaries in parts of Europe and the Far East in science and maths, according to a report in 1996 by Ofsted, the schools inspection agency.

■ Britain produces more science graduates relative to the young workforce than other members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

■ O-level maths papers taken by 16-year-olds in Singapore are almost identical in key areas to A-level papers in Britain, according to the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

■ Hong Kong University decrees that, in subjects such as maths and science, a B grade in A levels set in England is equivalent to a C or D in the Hong Kong version of the examination.

■ Primary school teachers in Britain are well paid compared with other countries, an OECD study says, but class sizes are higher than in all member states except Turkey, Ireland and The Netherlands.

■ In the 20 years to 1993, the proportion of graduates at traditional universities gaining first-class degrees rose from 11 to 14 per cent, according to a report for the Higher Education Quality Council.

The percentage of upper seconds (2:1) rose from 31 to 44 per cent.

Percentage of young people qualified to O or A level or equivalent

1980-85 1990-95

CONSERVATIVE LABOUR LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



## Surrogacy mother may face test case over baby

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

A SURROGATE mother who refused to hand over a baby after allegedly accepting £4,000 from a childless couple will learn in March if she will be charged with an offence, in what could be a test case.

Greg and Deborah White had decided to find a host mother after Mrs White suffered several miscarriages and three failed attempts to have a test-tube baby. Mr White, 38, and his 40-year-old wife had spent £7,000 on infertility treatment.

They contacted the organisation run by Britain's first surrogate mother, Kim Cotton. Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy, in September 1995, and were put in contact with Angela Richardson, whom they knew as Diane. Ms Richardson, 25, of Derby, told them that she was divorced with two children and did not want any more of her own.

She asked for £10,000 for the baby, plus £120 a month expenses and £50 a fortnight for a cleaner. She said she was a radiographer. On January 10, 1996, Mr White went to Derby for three days to provide sperm for artificial insemination. Two weeks later, Ms Richardson telephoned them to say that she was pregnant.

In July, she wrote that she had changed her mind about giving them the baby because her fees were not being paid promptly enough. In October she gave birth to a son, Isaac. The Whites, from Bath, contacted a solicitor, who was told by Ms Richardson that the baby was not Mr White's.

In December, Derbyshire Police arrested Ms Richardson, who is now on police bail. The law cannot require a baby to be handed over unless the surrogate mother has signed an agreement with the father, allowing him to ask magistrates to give him the child at six weeks.

Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy previously did not meet potential surrogates, acting mainly as a contact organisation and advisory service. It now has face-to-face counselling. Ms Cotton said that surrogacy should be properly regulated and run by in-vitro fertilisation clinics, able to carry out police and medical checks on potential surrogates. Voluntary arrangements are legal in Britain if no profit is made. Doctors' leaders have provided ethical guidelines allowing expenses up to £10,000 to be paid. Ms Cotton called for Parliament to make contracts legally enforceable.



The ship's bell receiving attention from Radio Operator Pete McCraw. Britannia leaves Portsmouth this morning on her final voyage. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

## Poignant destination for Britannia's last trip

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Yacht Britannia embarks on her last major voyage today. Her final duty will be to preside over the closing of another chapter in the history of the British empire — the handing over of Hong Kong to China.

HMV Britannia sails with a crew of 234 and a Royal Marines band. The trip will take her to the Mediterranean, the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Far East. However, it is her arrival in Hong Kong on June 23, for the handover at midnight on June 30, that will provide the most poignant moment before she goes to be decommissioned.

The bandmen, on board for the seven-month deployment, will strike up as Britannia leaves Portsmouth this morning with the crew lining her decks. A few minutes after midnight on July 1, they will play again as Britannia heads out of Hong Kong with the Prince of Wales and Chris Patten, the colony's last Governor. They will leave to the accompaniment of a fireworks display.

The crew are volunteers, and when Britannia is decommissioned at the end of the



Britannia, launched by the Queen in 1953, will visit the Mediterranean and the Gulf on her way to the Far East

year they will have to be reintegrated into the mainstream Royal Navy. Some have served on the Royal Yacht for more than 20 years.

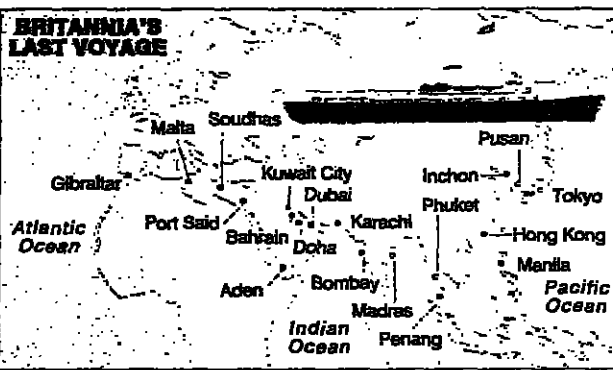
Uniquely in the Navy, Britannia does not employ Hong Kong Chinese laundrymen but has her own volunteer Royal Navy sailors to carry out the washing duties. About five of the yacht's crew will be responsible for the laundry during the overseas deployment. This will include laundering the Prince's clothes during his stay on the yacht.

He is due on board next month when Britannia arrives in Kuwait and will stay with the yacht while she visits Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

He will rejoin Britannia for a visit to Saudi Arabia, and then for the Hong Kong ceremony. He will be dropped off at Manila in the Philippines about July 3.

Britannia's first port of call will be Malta in a week. The rest of the swansong voyage will include Egypt, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea.

Britannia is part of the Royal Navy's Ocean Wave deployment which consists of about 20 surface ships, submarines and support vessels. HMS Illustrious, the aircraft carrier, left on the deployment last week. For her visit to Hong Kong, Britannia, com-



manded by Commodore Anthony Morrow, will be escorted by the Type 22 frigate, HMS Chatham.

Britannia's last voyage is being seen as an opportunity to extract the maximum publicity both for British business and diplomacy. British ambassadors and high commissioners along the route have all put in requests for visits.

During the tour the yacht will be the venue for a number of trade promotions.

After the visit to Hong Kong, she will steam back to Portsmouth via Manila, Crete and Gibraltar, and will then take up routine royal duties, including taking the Queen and other members of the royal family on their traditional Western Isles cruise.

The Government is coming under pressure to say what the future holds when Britannia is taken out of service. A decision on whether the vessel will be replaced has been delayed, and last week Christopher Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, would only say: "It is a decision the Government has to make. It is not an easy decision."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Hospital turns away patients as staff fall ill

A Wiltshire hospital has so many staff on sick leave that it can admit only the critically ill, officials said yesterday. More than 30 staff at the 530-bed Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, are absent due to illness. This has coincided with an upturn in emergency admissions, leaving doctors unable to cope with routine cases.

## River death

A man who leapt into the Thames to escape police is believed to have drowned. Two officers who had approached the man in Kingston, southwest London, tried to save him after he jumped in about 6am yesterday. A body was found later.

## Phone fault

BT admitted that it had had to correct a software fault in up to 5,000 cordphones in public callboxes after it was discovered that fraudsters had been making free international and domestic calls from the telephones, which were installed last summer.

## Driver run over

Police appealed for witnesses after Thomas Jones, 40, was run over as he returned to his vehicle after running out of petrol. He was crossing the northbound M80 at Denny, near Falkirk, after buying petrol at a service station on Saturday night.

## Virus hits frogs

Thousands of frogs are dying from an unidentified virus that causes open sores, wasting, bleeding from the mouth and rotting limbs, the Frog Mortality Project found. It is feared that, particularly in the South East, entire colonies have been wiped out.

## Handless body

The handless, badly burnt body of a man was found on a track in shrubland in East Sussex yesterday. Police were treating the discovery of the body in Hastings Country Park as suspicious, although they said there was no clear evidence of foul play.

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**Tablet side-effects may brighten the long, dark nights**

**MEDICAL BRIEFING**

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE publicity surrounding Prozac, the pill form of fluoxetine, has ensured that the five anti-depressants known as HT reuptake inhibitors have become the accepted and safer treatment for mood disorders.

There are many other medicines which work in the same way as Prozac by decreasing the body's reuptake of serotonin and noradrenaline, so that higher levels of these chemicals, which determine the degree of happiness or misery, circulate in the central nervous system.

There are minor variations in the action of each of these anti-depressant drugs. A conference in Norway has been shown evidence that one of them, Lustral, a tablet form of sertraline, has an unexpected side-effect.

Lustral is the drug of choice for patients who become depressed once the winter nights lengthen. This form of depression, known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), produces bouts of melancholia in wintertime and is related to the amount of sunlight to which a patient is exposed.

SAD can be countered if the sufferer is prepared to spend many hours a day sitting in front of artificial sunlight, but psychiatrists were told at the

Norwegian conference that a daily single dose of Lustral was not only an easier treatment but apparently much more effective.

The five HT reuptake inhibitors not only have slightly different roles in psychiatry but also varying side-effects. They may all, in some patients, produce nausea, headache, diarrhoea and tremor, but these symptoms usually disappear once the patient becomes accustomed to the drug.

In about a fifth of patients taking them, this group of anti-depressant drugs tends to diminish sexual drive. It is claimed that Seraxat does not diminish the libido in this way and that it and Lustral have an effect on male ejaculation. If just the right dose of either of these drugs is achieved, the dark winter nights may be revolutionised for men with SAD, leading to undreamt-of sexual prowess.

Lustral, like the four other HT reuptake inhibitors, should not be taken by people suffering from liver disease or epilepsy. It is incompatible with some other anti-depressants and slimming pills, and there are other possible drug interactions. Care is needed if the patient is on anti-coagulants.

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## Shake-up in international clubland will raise crop of resentful outsiders

When the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet empire imploded, outfits such as the European Union, Nato and the United Nations that made up the "West" sailed serenely on as if the new era would require only cosmetic adjustments to the way they had done business.

The EU kept crawling towards the federal dream defined by its founding fathers of the 1950s. Nato suffered a passing identity crisis, but recovered its nerve. The UN found a new peacekeeping role, but lost a lot of respect. The world had turned upside



down, but the institutional machinery just kept turning. The real earthquake occurs this year: the members of the alphabet-soup organisations will be shaken up like letters

in a game of Scrabble. For the first time in decades and on a scale never seen before, the networks which make — but sometimes only enforce — the rules of international conduct will draw fresh lines across the map of Europe. A new age of invidious distinctions is dawning.

In July a Nato summit will probably "invite" three or four Central European states to join the alliance, leaving a queue of disgruntled outsiders outside the door. "Flexibility" clauses inserted in a new Maastricht treaty, under discussion in Brussels today, would accelerate the EU's

division into separate clubs. By the middle of this year, the split between exactly which countries will be inside and outside the single currency will be stark.

Because money now drives integration, Western Europe reaches a parting of the ways. If the euro gets off the ground, nothing will matter much to those aboard the new money except keeping it airborne. The needs of the new currency zone will take precedence over everything else, including over the rest of the EU. Stress levels are

rising. EU governments resent American pressure to promise early membership to Baltic states such as Estonia, to console them for their inevitable exclusion from Nato.

Will Greece, located at the most volatile corner of Europe, feel relaxed when shut out of monetary union? How will the Italian electorate, which watched its political class collapse once already this decade, find life on the outside?

New cracks in old patterns, however, can release opportunities. Assume that Britain stays out of the single currency.

If the single-currency states can get shot of their difficult fellow members, might the G7 (Group of Seven) leading industrial powers eventually become a G3 consisting of North America, the Euro-zone and Japan? Would Britain be asked to give up its seat on the UN Security Council when France and Germany share a joint EU place? How much would it matter? If a European currency zone became a political and defence union without Britain, would we stop paying for soldiers to serve in the Gulf and Bosnia-Herzegovina? Needless to

say, no politician has yet found language to debate such speculations. In particular, politicians of the 1990s find it hard to free themselves of the understandable Cold War habit of thinking that a serious country must be a member of any and every international club. The next political generation will have to take a hard-headed look at the benefits and costs of each membership on offer.

The long-running Bosnia crisis tested the EU, UN and Nato almost to destruction: the Dayton peace deal was bro-

kered by five governments meeting under the auspices of no institution at all.

Politicians such as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will talk a lot in the next 12 months about the all-embracing unity of the EU family and of extending it to Central Europe. It is one of the bizarre ironies of history that a German leader, heading the nation which has so compulsively collected club memberships since the war, is pressing changes which may fracture more than they bind.

GEORGE BROCK

## Staff of troubled Paris bank hold executives hostage

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WORKERS at the Paris headquarters of Crédit Foncier held senior executives hostage for a third day yesterday in a protest over government plans to shut down the loss-making bank.

About 500 workers occupied the ornate 19th-century building on the Rue des Capucines on Friday and prevented Jérôme Meysonnier, the bank's state-appointed governor, from leaving. Four other officials were also being held by the demonstrators.

Crédit Foncier, a venerable 145-year-old property lender that was once the second largest issuer of bonds after the State, had to be bailed out by the Government last year after sustaining huge losses.

Plans to sell off the bank's core businesses to Crédit Immobilier, the property credit group, and then dismantle what remains have prompted anger among employees who fear the loss of at least 900 jobs from the bank's workforce of 3,300.

Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, broke off a tour of western France on Saturday to hold talks with the protesters, which ended in stalemate. "We are disappointed. We had been waiting for a sign that the Government was willing to change its mind about

dismantling the bank," Michel Lamy, a union leader, said.

The demonstrators pledged to continue the occupation indefinitely and said the governor and other captives would not be released until the plan to break up the company was formally shelved.

M. Meysonnier appeared relaxed and comfortable yesterday despite spending three days as a prisoner in his own bank. "The night went well. Everyone was on their best behaviour," he said. Although Crédit Foncier is technically a

private institution, the Government controls senior appointments at the bank because of its role in issuing subsidised loans. In 1995 the bank lost Fr10.8 billion (£1.3 billion), and last year the Government stepped in with a rescue package to stave off collapse.

M. Arthuis criticised the workers' protest, describing the detention of bank officials as "a form of brutality which prevents us from moving forward". He said that, unless another buyer for the ailing bank came forward, the existing plan to hive off the housing loans business and wind up the rest was the only available option.

Resurrecting Crédit Foncier would cost French taxpayers up to Fr5 billion, M. Arthuis said. The Government said a bank collapse would wreak havoc in financial markets.

"If we don't get what we want, we are ready to sit here for as long as it takes," Michel Deswert, another union official, said. Delegations of Crédit Foncier workers travelled to Paris from branches around the country to join the protest. Union leaders said relay teams of "squatters" would go into action if the occupation was extended through this week.



Meysonnier: governor a captive in own bank



A three-year-old boy, shipwrecked in a cave after a sight-seeing boat sank in heavy seas off Spain's Canary island of La Palma, is carried to safety by a rescuer. Two German tourists died when a strong swell smashed the leisure boat against rocks on Friday

## Shipwreck boy is saved

night in the popular tourist spot of Cueva Bonita cave, in the northeast of the island. The dead were named as Hermann Planch, 64, and Beate Silta Sauppe, 52. Their bodies were recovered yesterday.

The rescue group that went to the aid of the survivors — five Germans, one Swiss and one Spanish crew member — were also trapped on a small beach inside the cave overnight, a

spokesman from the Civil Guard in Tenerife said. They found shelter in a cave. All those trapped were recovered when the rescue operation resumed on Saturday morning. One German tourist broke a number of ribs, according to police. (AP/Reuters)

## Austrians surprised by exit of Vranitzky

BY ROGER BOYES

FRANZ VRANITZKY, the Austrian Chancellor, has resigned and offered the job to Viktor Klima, his Finance Minister. The move at the weekend took the country by surprise and exposed the hidden crisis that has been bubbling below the surface of Austrian politics since it joined the European Union in 1995.

Herr Vranitzky, 59, claimed yesterday that he simply wanted to step aside for younger talent after 10½ years at the helm of the Social Democratic coalition. He denied that he wanted to run for President or seek a European Commissioner's job. Fatigue, personal and political, may well have played a big role in the decision of the former national basketball player.

Over the past year he has seen Jörg Haider, the right-wing populist, eat away at the grassroots support of his Social Democrats, appealing to the fears and prejudices of Austrian workers disillusioned by what they regard as the meagre benefits of EU membership. That led to a plunge in support for Herr Vranitzky at last autumn's European elections, the dislodging of the Social Democrats in Vienna and a very shaky coalition with the conservative People's Party.

The Government had looked close to collapse over the past fortnight as the two parties argued over the priva-

tisation of Creditanstalt, Austria's second largest bank. The Chancellor survived and seemed set to steer Austria at least until general elections in 1998/99. The energy seemed to have oozed out of the man, however, and his once voracious appetite for power has long since gone.

The prospect of an election campaign fought again on European issues — it will coincide with the introduction of monetary union — seems to have depressed the Chancellor. His chosen successor, by contrast, has proved he is able to launch a strong offensive against Herr Haider and shown himself as more than a match in debate. Moreover, it

is Herr Klima who has been trying to tailor the budget to make Austria fit for monetary union.

The fundamental problems remain, however. Austria voted to join the EU in 1994, before it had solved its deep-seated political and economic malaise: membership "now puts the squeeze on the system, forcing Austria to modernise. The conventional politics of Austria are beginning to crumble. Voters believe they were misled by politicians (who promised among other things that EU membership would create jobs and bring down inflation). The ultra-nationalist Herr Haider is happily poaching voters from both the mainstream governing parties. Herr Haider has vowed to be Chancellor by 2000. That dream may have come a little closer, thanks to Herr Vranitzky's resignation.

Although the Chancellor was slow to adapt, he kept firm the core Social Democratic constituency. He helped to restore Austria's international standing after the Waldheim scandal and went out of his way to apologise for Austria's role in the Holocaust.

The strong hope of the Social Democrats is that Herr Klima will rejuvenate the party and boost its support sufficiently to forge a new kind of coalition with the Greens and the small Liberal Party.



Vranitzky: more than ten years at the helm

## Pakistani mourners run amok

Islamabad: Crowds mourning the death of extremist Sunni Muslim leaders killed in a bomb attack ransacked and set on fire Iranian culture centres in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore yesterday (Zahid Hussain writes).

The protesters chanted slogans against Iranian leaders, accusing them of masterminding the incident on Saturday in which a remote-controlled bomb exploded inside a court building, killing 26 people, including Ziaur Rehman Farooqi, chief of a militant Sunni Muslim organisation, and injuring 80 others.

## Joy in Bulgaria over new leader

Sofia: Thousands of people danced at a rally in the Bulgarian capital to celebrate the swearing in of Petar Stoyanov as President. He has supported opposition demands for a quick general election to break the country's political deadlock. Protesters have staged 14 consecutive days of mass rallies against economic hardship blamed on the ruling Socialists. (Reuters)

## Miami officials asked to resign

Miami: Ed Marquez, Miami's new city manager, intent on rebuilding the administration after a financial crisis and corruption scandal, has asked all of his 15 top managers and department heads to resign. Joe Carollo, the Mayor, has blamed the city's \$68 million (\$41 million) budget shortfall on previous mismanagement and corruption. (AP)

## Greek farmers fight strikers

Athens: Farmers in Crete, who have been unable to get their produce to markets on the mainland, fought striking seamen at the weekend, as Greece lurched towards a second round of unrest (John Carr writes). The seamen, who object to plans to do away with their tax-free status, have been on strike for eight days.

## Norwegian hits Antarctica target

Wellington: Boerge Ousland, 34, became the first person to walk across Antarctica alone and unaided when he arrived at New Zealand's Scott Base on Saturday. During parts of the 1,800-mile walk he retraced the 1911 route of his fellow Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, the first person to reach the South Pole. (Reuters)

## Luther King son follows father

Los Angeles: Martin Luther King III, the son of the assassinated American civil rights leader, has announced that he is forming a new group to advance black causes (Giles Whittell writes). Mr King said the group would oppose enemies of "affirmative action" programmes.

## Milosevic 'prepared to unleash new war'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

SERBIA lurched into a third month of street protests yesterday with the opposition coalition's leader, Vuk Draskovic, giving a warning that President Milosevic was preparing a bloody last stand.

Unfolding events in Kosovo, where a bomb explosion in the capital, Pristina, on Friday signalled a possible provocation against Serbia's Albanian minority and the spectre of another Balkan conflict, have cast a pall over Belgrade's colourful, noisy and imaginative protests. Mr Draskovic told a 40,000-strong

crowd yesterday that the Kosovo blast was no coincidence, since it took place when Mr Milosevic had lost virtually all credibility and support in Belgrade. It bore the hallmarks of a ploy by a cornered President with a history of saving himself at any cost, including all-out war.

Mr Draskovic added: "He solved the problem of the small war in Slovenia by making the bigger war in Croatia, and after that he so-called solved the war in Croatia by promoting disaster in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The blast left Professor Radivoje Papovic, the pro-Milosevic rector of Pristina University, and his driver seriously ill. No one has admitted responsibility.

but Serbia's Socialist media machinery blamed "Albanian extremists in league with the Zaječari [together] coalition".

Another conflicting force in Serbia emerged at the weekend with a message of support from Crown Prince Alexander, son of the former Yugoslav King Peter. He drew rapturous applause from Saturday's crowd, which chanted "we want a king".

Mr Draskovic assured supporters that, with Zaječari in power, they would be able to choose between a "democratic republic or constitutional parliamentary monarchy". He told *The Times* that he preferred the monarchy's restoration as a counterweight against dictatorship.

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# Hebron crowds hail triumphant Arafat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HEBRON

YASSIR ARAFAT returned in triumph to Hebron yesterday after an absence of 32 years and made a speech conciliatory to the 450 remaining Jewish settlers.

The bearded Palestinian leader, given a hero's welcome by tens of thousands of jubilant Palestinians, also claimed that the peace process had been transformed now it had been joined by the right-wing Likud Party of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — "a friend and a partner in peace".

"Now, with this Hebron deal, we have signed peace with all the Israeli people," the former guerrilla leader said. "This is something new... We will make peace together in the Middle East hand by hand, heart by heart, soul by soul." He called for the peace-treaties between the Jewish state and Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to be followed by peace with Syria and Lebanon.

Standing on the balcony of the former Israeli military headquarters, Mr Arafat,

dressed in his chequered keffiyeh and his olive-green fatigues, told the crowd: "I say to the settlers here in Hebron that we do not want confrontation... we want a just peace." Although the militant settlers living under heavy military guard less than two miles away rebuffed his gesture and

the expulsion of the settlers from Hebron," Mr Bar-Ilan said. "That is something we consider unacceptable which can damage the continuation of the peace process."

Yesterday's return by Mr Arafat to a city of 120,000 Arabs that he had not visited since 1965, and which fell to

Hebronites who flocked to the hilltop fort created a festive atmosphere rarely seen in Hebron, a city with a long history of violence between Arabs and Jews. "With our blood and soul, we sacrifice for you, Abu Ammar," they chanted, using Mr Arafat's nom de guerre.

"We waited a long time for you," read one of the slogans as the crowd, expectant of further moves towards their elusive independence, shouted "Long live Palestine". Asmil al-Jahoun, a 57-year-old mechanic who had been imprisoned in the fort — which doubled as an Israeli jail — voiced the general mood. "For the first time, we now feel that we are masters of our own destiny. It makes us very, very happy."

Israeli forces in the Six-Day War of 1967, raised new hopes that he and Mr Netanyahu can reach a final peace settlement by the set date of mid-1999.

**"I say to the settlers, here in Hebron, we do not want confrontation, we want a just peace"**

described him as a "master murderer". Mr Arafat's message was hailed by David Bar-Ilan, the Israeli Prime Minister's communications director.

"Israel welcomes the conciliatory speech by Chairman Arafat, a welcome contrast to the incendiary and inflammatory speech given the day before by the head of the preventive security forces of the Palestinian Authority, Jibril Rajoub, who called for



Yassir Arafat gives a double victory sign to tens of thousands of Palestinians in "liberated" Hebron yesterday

Hebron would actually go ahead."

Mr Arafat, who arrived by helicopter, told his supporters: "I declare Hebron a liberated city." The next goal was to take control of the rest of the West Bank and establish a

new Palestinian state. As the crowd cheered, he added: "We will continue until Jerusalem."

Aware that Hebron is a stronghold of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Mr Arafat boosted his standing by assuring the

crowd that Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the blind, wheelchair-bound Hamas spiritual leader, would eventually be released from the Israeli jail where he is held and that the remaining Palestinian women prisoners held by Israel would

be set free "in a few days". Foreign observers said the size and enthusiasm of his welcome in a city noted for its Islamic fervour showed the growing support among ordinary Palestinians for a peace process that Hamas opposes.

## Hutu extremists kill Spanish relief workers

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUTU extremists have unleashed a wave of terror across Rwanda, culminating in the weekend murders of three Spanish aid workers, and a witness who had given evidence against alleged genocide leaders at United Nations trials in Arusha, Tanzania.

The three dead Spaniards — a woman and two men working for Médicos del Mundo — lay in pools of blood yesterday. They had been shot in the head at the compound where they were living at Ruhengeri, 140 miles northwest of Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

An American escaped death but needed to have his leg amputated. Three Rwandan soldiers were killed defending the compound, which also houses workers with Save the Children, who are providing medical relief for Hutus returning to Rwanda.

In Madrid, Médicos del Mundo named the Spaniards as Manuel Madrazo, 42, a doctor from Seville; Maria Flora Sierra, 33, a nurse from Lérida; and Luis Valtierra, 30, a photographer from Madrid who was working as an administrator. In Paris, the parent organisation, Médecins du Monde, announced that it was suspending all activities in Rwanda.

A diplomat said that Hutu militiamen had gone to the house on Saturday night. After checking the Spaniards'

passports, they had shot them at point-blank range.

It was the latest in a series of attacks on aid workers, hospitals and foreigners in Rwanda which have escalated since the return of more than 600,000 Hutus from eastern Zaïre at the end of last year.

A senior Rwandan military officer said: "These attacks are deliberately mounted to scare away expatriates."

A UN official said: "As soon as we have talked to the Rwandan Army we will be discussing whether or not to suspend operations." On the same night a grenade was thrown into an aid worker's house, he added.

Last week Hutu extremists murdered a prosecution witness, her husband and seven children after she appeared before the UN trials, at which she was promised protection from killers bent on silencing witnesses to the genocide in 1994. The woman had testified against Jean-Paul Akayesu, 43, the former Mayor of Taba, 20 miles south of Kigali.

Mr Akayesu has been indicted for his alleged part as a leader in the killing of more than 2,000 people in Taba between April and June 1994.

The UN has refused to divulge the identity of the dead witness. But it is thought that she was a Hutu who knew Mr Akayesu well and had accused him of personally killing men, women and children, and of calling for the extermination of all Tutsis.

Honore Rakotomanana, the deputy prosecutor for the UN tribunal, said that he was reviewing the witness-protection programme.

□ Kigali: A court sentenced three former teachers to death for helping to plot Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in which half a million people were killed, Rwandan radio reported yesterday. A court in southern Butare on Friday had convicted the three Hutus of mass murder and crimes against humanity, the radio report said. (AP)



Akayesu: accused at trial by murdered witness

## Balloonist heads for landing in India

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

STEVE FOSSETT, 57, plans to abandon his round-the-world balloon flight today after a record-setting run from the American Midwest.

Flying at 23,000ft and 120 knots, he passed into Indian airspace yesterday and was expected to touch down between Delhi and Calcutta this afternoon after breaking the balloon endurance record of six days and 16 minutes at 06:19 GMT.

The American commodities trader decided to abort his effort to circle the globe after concluding that he did not have enough fuel to cross the Pacific. His ground crew said fuel had been wasted in changing course when Libya refused him permission to overfly the country, even though Colonel Muammar Gaddafi later relented.

"We cannot blame it all on that," said Rick Saum, the

mission's technical director in Chicago. "He has used more fuel than he should have and we have a lot of experience and we do not know why."

The silver 150ft double-skinned Solo Spirit mission has been the longest of this year's three round-the-world attempts. Richard Branson's Virgin Global Challenger was forced down by equipment problems in Algeria two days into its flight. The Swiss psychiatrist Bertrand Picard ditched in the Mediterranean six hours after take-off when paraffin fumes filled his cockpit.

Mr Fossett has beaten his own distance ballooning record of 5,435 miles, set on a 1995 flight from South Korea to Canada. If he lands east of Delhi he will have covered about 10,000 miles since taking off from St Louis, Missouri, last Monday.



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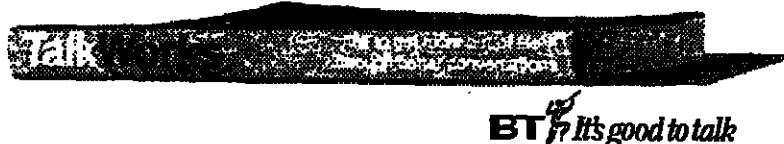
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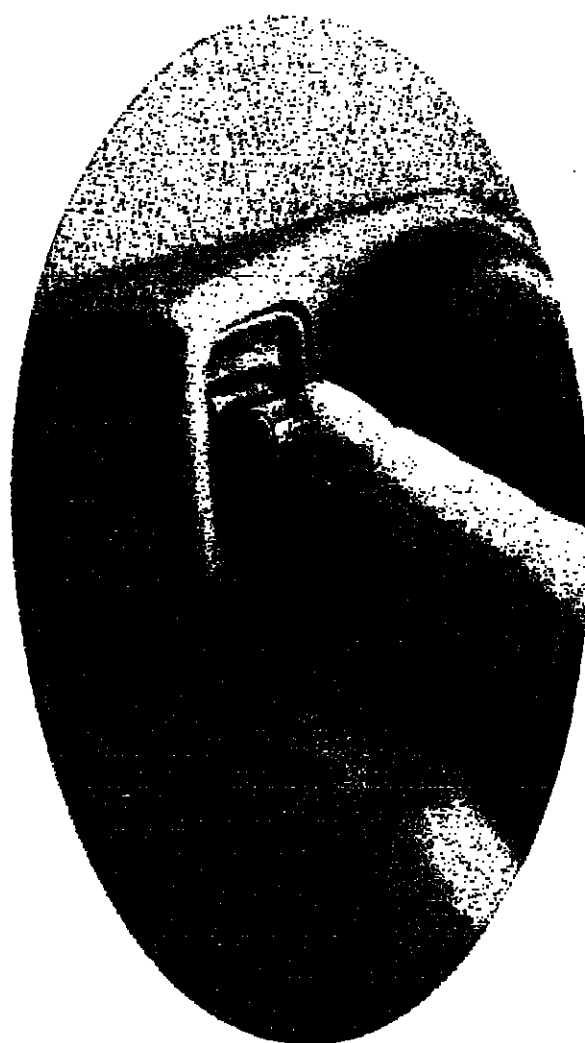
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## Second-term Clinton to offer hand of peace

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TRUE to his reputation for last-minute preparation, President Clinton will spend this morning polishing the last phrases of his inaugural speech, before being sworn in at noon in front of the Capitol for a second time as President of the United States.

Despite temperatures plunging below freezing, hundreds of thousands crowded into the capital ready to celebrate, while banks and hotels decked their facades in 60ft American flags.

Mr Clinton intends his speech to "help blast the poison from the atmosphere" after months of acrimony between Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill. He has spent weeks poring over the inaugural addresses of America's greatest Presidents. The thrust of his speech will be the assertion that government has a central role in improving people's lives.

Mr Clinton, in an interview with *The Washington Post* published yesterday, says that his first term was marked by "big battles" with Republicans over this principle, a fight he regarded as settled in his favour when Republicans shut down the government and provoked public hostility.

On Saturday night 16,500 fireworks, costing \$300,000 (£230,000), were let off from ten separate sites around the city. The Grucci family, which calls itself the First Family of Fireworks, co-ordinated the show from a tiny room in the

USA Today building south of the Potomac river.

Mr Clinton, who had earlier cancelled his attendance at a fund-raising dinner on the grounds that it would appear inappropriately partisan, watched the show from the White House balcony.

Although the White House has deliberately made Mr Clinton's second inauguration a more subdued affair than the first, the Mall, the avenue running from Capitol Hill past the White House, has been packed with thousands of visitors since Saturday, although the cold weather has kept the crowds well below

1993 levels. There are only four large tents on the Mall, compared to more than 60 when Mr Clinton became the first Democratic President to enter the White House for 12 years.

The centrepiece, a 30 ft "bridge to the 21st century", erected between two tents, is reminiscent of a school playground. Visitors are invited to write their wish on a piece of adhesive paper and stick it to the bridge. Yesterday one of the most prominent included "End Limer Rule in Northern Ireland".

After the swearing in, there will be an 8,000-strong parade down the Mall, with acts

ranging from the solemn to the cute. Bands and dancers have been competing across the country for months to be selected for the honour of participating. Military bands will head the parade, followed by groups such as Daria's Dancers of Ohio, who will perform a clog dance, and The Mid-American Pom-pom All-Star Team of Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Tickets along the 1.7-mile route cost \$10, \$50 and \$100, becoming more expensive towards the White House. More than 3,000 of Washington's policemen and hundreds of Secret Service men have been monitoring the route for weeks. Dozens of municipal workers are on hand to clean up after the 360 horses and a donkey, the Democratic symbol.

The climax of the celebrations will be tonight's 13 inaugural balls. But for many in the capital, it is the private parties which are the greater attraction. MTV and *Condé Nast* took over the elegant Corcoran Art Gallery for a party for 2,000 guests on Saturday night, at which Hillary Clinton made a brief appearance.

□ Boston: Paul Tsongas, a former senator who pushed ahead of Mr Clinton to become the Democratic front-runner for President briefly in 1992, died of pneumonia. He was 55. (AP)

Inauguration guide, page 15

## Gingrich 'must pay his fine from own funds'

LEADING Democrats yesterday pressed for Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to pay the \$300,000 (£180,000) fine recommended by an ethics investigation from his own pocket rather than from campaign funds (Bronwen Maddox writes).

Mr Gingrich's office was reported as saying that there were precedents for using campaign funds to pay such fines. The comment provoked outrage from Democrats and campaign reform groups, who said the use of campaign funds would make the sanction "a joke".

After the election, Mr Gingrich's campaign committee had made more than \$1 million in cash, and his political action committee had \$27,394 in cash. James Cole, the committee's special counsel, said on Friday that Mr Gingrich had to pay the penalty "the right way. If he doesn't... there's a chance of being back" before the ethics hearings.

The House will vote tomorrow on whether to accept the ethics committee's conclusion that Mr Gingrich misled his colleagues about his use of tax-exempt charitable funds for political purposes.



Fireworks light up the sky above the Washington Monument at the weekend

## Pastor 'arrested smoking cocaine'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN EPISCOPALIAN pastor at a troubled New York church has been arrested after police found him allegedly smoking crack cocaine in the rectory while writing his sermon.

The Rev Canon Chester LaRue made headlines as a "fighting father" last month when he reportedly fended off two burglars at St John's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn during the Christmas holidays by kneeling one of them in the groin. One of the burglars later told police, however, that a man living above Mr LaRue in the rectory was running a drug delivery service from the church. Customers would use a beeper to contact the man, Ruben Serrano, and he would send a messenger to deliver cocaine, it was claimed.

Undercover officers decided to raid the church premises. They found Mr LaRue dressed in clerical garb and typing his sermon on a computer with a crack pipe in his hand. "It was kind of odd to find a man of the cloth," said Lieutenant Kevin Barry, the commander of the local police precinct.

The bespectacled Mr LaRue, 54, told police that he had first smoked crack cocaine to show an addict how easy it was to kick the habit, but quickly found out he was wrong. "To my great surprise, I like it," he reportedly confessed.

Police said Mr Serrano and his girlfriend were also arrested when they were found packaging crack.

Parishioners were stunned by the news. "Holy goodness," said one. "I didn't even think he smoked cigarettes."

The congregation was only just emerging from the last scandal at St John's, which is known as the "church of the generals" because Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson both worshipped there.

The last pastor, George Hoeh, was strangled by his homosexual lover at his holiday home in New Jersey in 1986.

## Second witness sought in Cosby killing

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES



Sketch of chief suspect

POLICE believe the killer of Ennis Cosby was a white man of average weight and height, aged between 25 and 32, with heavy features and a close-fitting woollen hat. A composite sketch of the suspect was issued on Saturday, two days after the 27-year-old, only son of Bill Cosby, the entertainer, was found murdered next to his car in west Los Angeles.

"We're not by any shape desperate,"

Tim McBride, the police commander, said, although he admitted that leads pointed in "lots of directions" and called on the public to help to identify the chief suspect in Hollywood's latest tragedy.

In a new twist to a crime whose motive is still being described as robbery, a sketch of a possible second witness was also released on Saturday. The man, who was white, with a goatee beard, was seen leaving the murder scene in a blue hatchback with out-of-state number plates. Although he is wanted as a

witness, police refused to rule out the possibility that he might be a suspect.

Both sketches were based on interviews with the 47-year-old screenwriter Mr Cosby was on his way to visit when he was shot dead while changing a tyre. Summoned by mobile phone, the woman witness had gone to help by shining her headlights on his stranded Mercedes.

Experts believe delays in issuing the sketches, caused by the witness's traumatised condition, could hamper the investigation.

## Exxon seeks oil tanker's return to Alaska waters

Los Angeles: In a move bitterly fought by Alaskan natives, the Exxon oil company is lobbying for its Exxon Valdez tanker to be allowed back into Prince William Sound, seven years after running aground there with catastrophic results (Giles Whittell writes).

As part of an Oil Pollution Act passed in the wake of the

11 million gallons oil spillage, the Exxon Valdez was banned from Alaskan waters. Exxon's lawyers now claim that the company is being victimised by an unconstitutional retroactive application of the law.

"It is impossible to overstate the depth of Exxon's insensitivity to the Alaskan natives," Gary Mason, a lawyer, said.

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| • No redemption penalty                                                    | • No Mortgage Indemnity                                      | • No redemption penalty                         |
| • Pay more                                                                 | • Valuation Fee refunded when funds sent to Solicitors       | • Higher Loan to Value Access Fee added to loan |
| • Pay less or stop paying within a pre-set limit                           | • No redemption penalty                                      | • Solicitors and Valuation Fee can be added     |
| • Capital raise up to £50,000                                              | • Capital raise up to £50,000                                |                                                 |
| • Pay over 10 rather than 12 months                                        | • Cheque book facility available to draw funds when required |                                                 |
| • Additional Funds facility of up to 5% of property value with cheque book | Free re-mortgage package available.                          |                                                 |
| No income details required on loans up to 75% of property value            |                                                              |                                                 |

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if you decide to pay off the mortgage early. There is also a cheque book facility available through which you can access additional funds when you require them.

### The 100% Mortgage

The Bank of Scotland 100% mortgage is ideal for first time buyers with little or no capital. There is a Higher Loan to Value Access Fee to be paid, but this and the cost of legal and

valuation fees can be added to the loan. This frees up borrowers' own cash to buy essentials for their new property. The 100% mortgage offers a highly competitive variable rate of 7.74% (8.5% Typical APR).



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# WHY THE BA/AA MONOPOLY MUST BE STOPPED.

BY SIR FREDDIE LAKER.



Sir Freddie Laker shortly before the collapse of his airline in 1982, after which transatlantic airline fares soared.

...the Prime Minister...  
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Dear Prime Minister,

When, in 1982, my Skytrain was forced out of business, the British and American flying public lost out.

Transatlantic fares rose, because BA and the other members of the transatlantic cartel had little or no competition. The public had no choice but to pay the increased fares.

I know that my airline was sabotaged by aggressive and unfair tactics by BA and others, to which the authorities turned a blind eye.

After the event, the then Conservative transport minister Ian Sproat even said "I've got Freddie Laker's blood on my hands!"

Now BA and American Airlines are wanting to form a monopoly on transatlantic routes, which will allow them again to overwhelm other airlines, put their prices up, and force competition out of the market place.

Clearly, this can only be in the interest of BA and American. Leopards never change their spots!

For the following reasons, I believe the BA/American deal should be stopped.

Currently, the Office of Fair Trading are looking at draft undertakings which will limit the power of the merger.

The undertakings are mild, ineffective, and will still result in BA and American having a massive monopoly on transatlantic routes.

Monopolies in any other industry are illegal and are not in the public interest.

With such an overwhelming monopoly, the public and certainly other airlines will lose out again. There is no doubt that, like all monopolies, BA and American will use jugular marketing and other 'cartel' style price cutting, including 'dirty tricks' of the kind that drove Skytrain out of business. Then, as before, fares will skyrocket.

If, as BA and American claim, the merger will produce lower fares and create more competition, why are they seeking anti trust immunity from the US government?

Prime Minister, the answer is simple. They intend to 'fix' fares.

The Office Of Fair Trading's report on the merger currently recommends that BA and American must relinquish seven pairs of take off and landing slots per day on a permanent

basis for the seven carriers wishing to fly from Heathrow to the US.

That's one slot each. It's hardly going to lessen the power of the monopoly. BA and American will still control between 70% and 80% of the peak take off and landing slots.

Furthermore, in practice, BA and American are not obliged to give up actual transatlantic slots by the OFT.

Instead they could, for instance, give up European, or even domestic services, such as Plymouth to London!

This wouldn't diminish the power of the monopoly at all on transatlantic routes, though it might mean some UK cities losing their Heathrow flights.

What's more, BA are demanding that they be given the right to sell the slots, which in my and many other people's opinions is extraordinary. The slots belong to the people. We paid for them as taxpayers. Why should BA benefit whilst the real owners, the people, pay a premium for their own airport slots?

Meanwhile all this does is make the monopoly even more powerful by giving it huge amounts of extra revenue.

In conclusion, I believe both politicians and the public are currently being duped into thinking this monopoly will be less powerful than it actually will be.

This cosy cartel is an affront to fair play and equality. And, I believe, it is contrary to anti trust law.

BA and American Airlines must be made to compete on a level playing field with airlines such as Virgin Atlantic, United, and, indeed, the new Laker Airways Incorporated.

As the Consumer's Association said recently "We continue to hold the view that this alliance must be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and must ultimately be blocked."

Please, Prime Minister, remember the past. Make sure this 'merger' is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Because, should it be allowed to go ahead, the British flying public will have to live with its dire consequences for many years to come.

Freddie Laker

Sir Freddie Laker.

# When the face is an open book

Faces excite and delight, attract and repel us: at the same time, they inform us. I can learn so much about you from a glance. Have we met? Where are you from? Are you happy, angry or sad? Are you interested in me? In a noisy room, I can read your lips. The human face is the clearest picture of the human soul — even if it sometimes lies.

Given the feast of social signals on offer from the face, we might expect our brains to contain some sophisticated equipment for decoding them. Research conducted over the past 15 years, much of it in Britain, has borne this out. A spectacular example appeared in *Nature* recently, in a study of fear.

Charles Darwin is the grandfather of this line of inquiry. He published *The Expression of Emotions in Animals and Man* in 1872, extending his theory of the evolution of physical form into the realms of emotion and behaviour. He believed, like contemporary sociobiologists, that these also have a natural history.

Darwin conjures up fear with some relish: "It is often preceded by astonishment, and is so far akin to it, that both lead to the senses of sight and hearing being instantly aroused... the eyes and mouth are widely opened and the eyebrows raised, as the frightened man stands like a statue motionless and breathless."

In the middle of this century, Darwin's views on emotion became unfashionable. Amid general scepticism that biology played a big part in determining human behaviour, anthropologists concluded that there is no "natural" language of emotional gesture. But persuasive work by Professor Paul Ekman, an American psychologist, and others in the Seventies overturned this.

Professor Ekman found that a small group of facial expressions conveys similar emotions the world over, although social convention affects when and where we display them. Fear, anger, happiness, sadness and disgust are now generally agreed to be "universal" emotions, equally evident on faces in New Guinea and Newmarket. There is some strong evidence that we do not need to learn how to express these emotions: blind children begin to display them at much the same age as their sighted peers.

In a similar vein, psychologists have long suspected that interpreting facial emotion is a specific ability, independent of the ability to identify faces. Patients with "prosopagnosia", such as Professor Oliver Sack's *Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, may be unable to recognise faces, but sometimes remain able to decode their expressions.

Until recently it seemed a reasonable assumption that this ability to read emotion from the face was a unitary psychological capacity. In other words, it was thought that

How do we know at a glance whether somebody is feeling angry or unhappy? Adam Zeman on decoding the language of facial emotion

the recognition of all emotions took place in the same region of the brain. However, the exact location of this region was far from clear. Work over the past two years, reported independently by Professor Andrew Young and Dr Andrew Calder from the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, and by Dr Ralph Adolphs and Dr Antonio Damasio at the University of Iowa, has pinpointed a structure in the brain crucial to reading facial emotion, supporting the notion that such abilities are special. In fact, they turn out to be even more selective than we thought. This structure is not required for reading all the emotions: it specifically enables us to see anger and fear.

This conclusion came from work with a patient whose amygdalae had been damaged surgically on both sides of the brain, as a way of controlling her epilepsy. Similar in size and shape to an almond, the amygdala is tucked in beneath the surface of the temporal lobe, a part of the brain lying on the other side of the ear.

The patient in question, known as DR, had no difficulty in recognising familiar faces. She did seem poor at reading facial emotion. But as work progressed it became clear that detecting the signs of happiness and sadness, surprise and disgust, posed no problem for her, and she was somewhat unreliable with anger. But she was all at sea with fear.

This made sense. It is known from research with animals that their amygdalae are active in circumstances that provoke fear or anger. Patients with epilepsy arising from the amygdalae sometimes experience surges of these emotions during attacks. Finally, the amygdalae receive a rich stream of information from visual areas of the brain which are excited by faces, first identified by Dr Edmund Rolls and Dr David Perrett at Oxford University in the Eighties. If any region of the brain should play a part in perceiving the signs of fear in a face, then it is the amygdalae.

The question asked by Professor Chris Frith, Professor Young, Dr Perrett and collaborators at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology at Queen Square in

London, and answered in *Nature*, was elegantly simple. What happens in the normal human brain when it is confronted by a fearful face?

Two technical advances have made it possible to address this question. Positron emission tomography maps areas within the brain that become activated when it performs a task. Computerised graphics allow the creation of an evenly graded series of "morphed" expressions, running between one emotion, like happiness, and another, like fear.

The team at Queen Square examined the activation of the brains of normal subjects looking at faces whose expressions traversed the spectrum from happiness to fear. The subjects were not asked to concentrate on facial emotion: their explicit task was to decide the gender of the faces. But as the "percentage" of fear increased, so did the activation of the amygdalae.

These observations are taken a step further in another research paper, by Dr Sophie Scott, Professor Young and colleagues, published last week in *Nature*. Could damage to the amygdalae cause problems in recognising the sound of fear, as well as the sight? Do we read the human voice with the same neural equipment with which we read the human face?

So it seems. Patient DR had comparable difficulty in recognising the intonations that convey a speaker's anger or unease. She was poor at identifying the emotion conveyed by an angry growl or a fearful scream. However, her ability to discriminate similar sounds, such as "dog" and "zebra", or "house" and "mouse", and environmental noises such as the pattering of rain, remained unimpaired.

This finding beautifully illustrates two broad principles of brain function. The first is its fine division of labour. In spite of the seamlessness of our ordinary experience, distinct brain areas enable us to perceive colour, to detect movement, to recognise faces — and even to see fear. The clearest proof of this fact is that each of these abilities can be independently impaired.

The second principle is complementary to the first. The brain has to take the world apart to comprehend it, but it needs to reintegrate the parts when it generates action. This need can give rise to surprising combinations of function. The amygdalae, for example, seem to mediate fear in all its aspects: as we experience it, as we express it, and as we perceive it in others.

"I will show you fear in a handful of dust," wrote T.S. Eliot. Dr Damasio, Professor Young, Professor Frith and their colleagues have tracked it down in an almond, at the intersection of emotion, perception and behaviour in the brain.

■ The author is consultant neurologist at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh



A few facial expressions are universal, but psychologists believe that interpreting them is a specific ability

The face is the clearest picture of the human soul

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## Black holes solved HIV vaccines The happiest nations

### Swallowed by a star

A STAR apparently swallowing clouds of gas from its neighbour has provided scientists with the clearest evidence yet that black holes, the Universe's strangest objects, really exist. Though no great surprise to astronomers, the evidence is a gratifying confirmation that Einstein's theory of general relativity was right in predicting their existence.

A team from the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, looked at nine pairs of stars in which one is pulling gas away from the other. Dr Ramesh Narayan and colleagues told the American Astronomical Society meeting in Toronto last week that in five of the nine pairs, the massive object attracting the gas is a neutron star, left behind after the collapse of a huge star. The energy from the streaming gas makes the neutron stars glow more brightly.

But in the remaining four pairs the energy simply dis-

appears — a "strong indication" that the object is not a neutron star but a black hole, which is swallowing up the gas. In the case of one object, V404 Cyg, which is in the constellation of Cygnus and is 10,000 light years away from us, "the star seems to be swallowing almost 100 times as much energy as it radiates, and the only way this can happen is if the star is a true black hole", Dr Narayan said.



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

"This is the most direct evidence scientists have that black holes are real." A second study presented at the same meeting reached the same conclusions by an entirely different technique. Professor Douglas Richstone of the University of Michigan and colleagues analysed data from the Hubble space telescope and identified three new black holes, all in galaxies within 50 million light years of Earth.

From the Hubble images they worked out the movements of stars at different distances from the centre of the three galaxies. "Based on the size of the galaxy and the velocity pattern of the stars at the core of the galaxy, we can not only detect the signal from the black hole, we can also predict its mass," said Professor Richstone.

The analysis was aided by a new computer model, developed by Dr Karl Gebhardt at the University, which predicts how the stars should behave around a black hole. Basically they move faster as they get towards the centre, like water going down a plughole.

The team says that the mass of each black hole is proportional to the mass of its parent galaxy, suggesting that the growth of the black hole is linked to the formation of the galaxy. "We believe a massive black hole exists at the centre of nearly every galaxy in the universe," Professor Richstone said.

### Monkeys key to HIV vaccine

VACCINES against HIV, the Aids virus, may have come a little closer as a result of research reported by Dr Ronald Derorsiers, of the New England Primate Research Centre. Earlier work had shown that monkeys can be protected against the simian equivalent of HIV by injecting them with a weakened version of the virus responsible, SIV. The problem was that

while large doses of the vaccine protected adult monkeys, they actually caused the disease in newborns.

Now Dr Derorsiers has reported in the January issue of *Nature Medicine* that if lower doses of the vaccine are used, infants do not succumb. Only those given the highest dosages got the disease. This suggests that a vaccine based on attenuated HIV could provide protection without too much risk of infection, so long as the dose is precisely calculated.

All vaccines based on attenuated viruses have a small risk — the pox vaccine, for example, is responsible for about ten cases of the disease a year.

### Iceland laughs the longest

WHO are the happiest people on Earth? A Dutch team led by Ruut Veenhoven of Erasmus University has attempted to find out, measuring the quality of life in 48 countries by looking at how long and how happily the population of each lives. Iceland comes out top, with an average of 62 years of happy life, and Bulgaria bottom, with less than 32 years. Britain is gratifyingly

close to the top, scoring 57.9 years, ahead of America (57.1), France (55.37) and Germany (51.68).

People live longer and more happily in rich nations than in poor ones, but there is a limit to the effects of wealth on the quality of life. For socialists, the bad news is that there does not seem to be any correlation between income equality and a better quality of life.

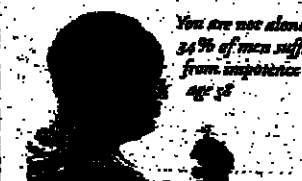
But the survey brings little comfort to conservatives, either, showing that countries with rigid religious systems and strong family values score poorly. Personal freedom helps, and so do better education and employment opportunities for women.

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# ASPECTS OF LOVE

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Pupils in Britain do less homework than in other countries. John O'Leary asks if they

# Homework's coming home



No link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results

Nineteen out of twenty parents think homework is important, according to a Government-sponsored report last week. Politicians obviously agree, since they have been straying increasingly into this unaccustomed territory. But that is where consensus ends.

School inspectors find that homework is the hottest issue at most parents' meetings: invariably, one group wants more while another thinks their children are given too much. In the political arena, there is equal disagreement about whether teachers need national instructions on how long pupils should labour.

So why has homework suddenly become the educational buzzword? Cynics say because it is cost-free. But a more realistic explanation lies in the surveys showing that most British pupils get off lightly compared with those in countries with better results.

British pupils between the ages of seven and 12 were found to do much less homework than their counterparts in France, Germany, Japan, China or the United States. The American market research company Roper Starch found that only 42 per cent of the British sample were set work on three or more evenings a week, compared with 90 per cent or more elsewhere.

By the age of 14, the average load in Britain has risen to six hours a week, although the variations between schools are immense. In Hungary, Holland, Poland, Israel, Italy and Japan, the average is more than eight hours.

Yet the evidence suggests that the amount of homework set in British schools has been growing. While almost a quarter of secondary school pupils do less than two hours' homework a week, according to Keele University's national database, 7 per cent do more than ten hours. Parents find themselves often doing the homework, thereby distorting the results and defeating the purpose of the exercise.

A study by the National Foundation for Educational Research found that more than 40 per cent of 11-year-olds were never expected to take work home. In the following year, after transfer to secondary school, almost two thirds of pupils were doing less than Labour's recommended 90 minutes per night.

In many independent and grammar schools, however, as well as the more academic comprehensives, overload is the main concern. For every disgruntled parent, who feels that their child is not being stretched, there is another worried about the pressure of projects and coursework. Conscientious girls, in particular, will toil late into the night.

At King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls in Birmingham, one of the top state schools, the norm for 11 to 13-year-olds has been reduced from 90 minutes to an hour a night because of fears that other activities were suffering. Elspeth Insch, the Principal, said: "Cutting the time spent on homework does not mean we don't think it's important. I think it is vital to the learning process. But in our case the girls were doing too much."

Even the hardest taskmasters hardly compare with the pressures on pupils in the high-performing countries of the Pacific Rim. Homework in Japan builds up from about an hour a night at the age of ten to four hours as university entrance examinations approach. Some schools expect teachers to visit pupils' homes to check assignments are being done.

Professor Michael Barber's report for the Department for Education and Employment conceded, like others before, that no link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results. Academics, like politicians, are agreed that homework makes a difference, but they cannot say how much.

JOHN O'LEARY



School inspectors find homework is the hottest issue at parents' meetings: some want more, others less

## HISTORY OF CONCERN

HOMEWORK began as "prep" in 19th-century boarding schools. In day schools it was a response to the establishment of HMI schools inspections and the creation of public examinations. Teachers, whose salaries were linked to examination results, gave homework to pupils who required extra coaching. This consisted of learning by rote — sums, tables and spellings to be tested in class.

The issue attracted little further attention until the 1930s, when, after an HMI survey, the Board of Education set homework quantity at one-half hour to two hours a night for secondary pupils, none for primary pupils, and that clubs, hobbies and sport should be as important as academic study in the home. To achieve this, staff were instructed to set homework relevant to class work and not to underestimate time required for tasks. In the poorest inner-city districts, reading schemes were established.

From this period, up until the 1970s, hours of homework appeared to remain constant — averaging 30 minutes per night for 11 to 13 year-olds, one to three hours for 14 to 15 year-olds and two to three hours for 15 to 16 year-olds.

In the 1970s, school boards and teachers' unions argued that the home was no place for study.

The most radical shake-up of homework came with the introduction of the national curriculum, league tables and GCSEs in 1986. Julian Stern, an educational consultant based at London University's Institute of Education, says: "With renewed concerns about school standards, greater emphasis on exam results, and the introduction of coursework as a contribution to qualifications, homework has been formalised."

"These changes also saw a transformation in the content of homework. Traditionally it focused on exercises to practise particular operations or processes, verbal memorising, revision of previous work and preparation for a coming lesson. Today it is designed to nurture individual research, open up areas of study and make use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom."

Now concern is being voiced once again about the circumstances under which homework takes place. "A particular worry regarding standards in the new curriculum is the degree of help some pupils are given at home," says Michael Barber, whose study on homework was published last week. "Standards are naturally easier to control through

BRIDGET HARRISON

THE TIMES

## TOMORROW

## FOOTBALL

An interview with Nicholas Hytner, director of the new film adaptation of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

West Ham v Leeds. Look to improve positions in the Premier League

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Aspects of Love: Day two of women writing about love

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

## 'Digging in books can be fun'



Melanie Hook thinks Emily is not pushed hard enough

Name: Emily Hook, 10  
School: St Andrew's C of E Primary, Halstead, Essex. Year 5

Homework: 2 hours/week  
"Most of what I have to do is research — finding out the names of capital cities, that kind of thing. Our teacher likes to set us challenges for the next day. It can be fun, digging around in books for information, asking Mum and Dad questions. My mum thinks that I should have more homework to do but I think what I do is about right — I do about two hours a week. Not everyone in my class agrees: one boy really hates doing homework and causes a terrible fuss whenever it is set. When I go to senior school I know I will have to do a lot more homework, so it's good to start early."

Melanie Hook (mother). "Emily is a very bright child

but sometimes I feel that she is not pushed hard enough at school. She is given homework, but it tends to be unstructured, revolving around research and finishing off what she has been doing during the day. At present, we are trying to prepare Emily for her 11-plus — there are some excellent local grammar schools, particularly in Colchester and Chelmsford. We are having to do most of the preparation ourselves because St Andrew's prefers its children to go to the local comprehensive. I tend to feel that in a mixed ability system the brighter pupils are not tested: too much emphasis is put on helping the slower, less able pupils. Emily would certainly thrive in a disciplined single sex environment, where homework was demanding. Children who are used to learning at home seem to enjoy the greatest success."

Interviews by Jason Cowley

## AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS IS HORRIBLE

Name: Lucy Shilton, 11  
School: Shenfield School, Essex (mixed comprehensive). Year 7  
Homework: 9 hours/week  
"My first reaction was 'Yuk, this is horrible'. I wish we'd done some more homework at my primary school."

Janet Shilton, (mother). "Her homework routine is

disciplined: I am responsible for ensuring that she completes her tasks. One problem with switching the focus on to parents is that you are frightened of interfering with your child's homework. You are also apprehensive as to whether you will actually be able to answer their questions, especially if you aren't academic yourself."

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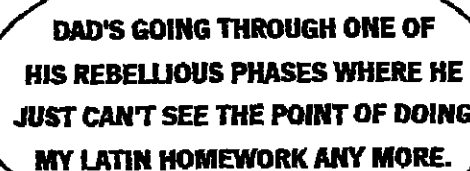
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# Whose history essay is it anyway?

Another is to slip your child £3 and pack him off to an Internet café where he posts his A-Level physics homework into cyberspace and



The increasing reliance by examiners on coursework (much of it done at home) has only swelled the emotional pressure on parents

**JOE JOSEPH**

**JOE JOSEPH**

"What I like most about high school is that the headmaster runs it along the lines of a public school. I also like the way the school pushes its pupils, unlike some schools in the area which have appalling discipline problems. You are actively involved in homework through being required to sign your child's homework diary. If the diary isn't signed your son gets into trouble. If you feel that he is having difficulties with his work or is worried about something you are encouraged to write a note in the diary."



you start doing homework at primary age, you establish an accepted pattern of behaviour. Children are highly susceptible to information at that age: what they learn while young, such as their tables and spelling, stays with them for life.

"It's increasingly left to parents to ensure that their children learn at home. We have computers, CD-Roms and lots of books, so there is plenty for Jeanne to do at home. It's not the same in many other households, though. I'm shocked at how few parents actually get involved."

CHRIS HARRIS



"Although I agree with Tony Blair that all children should do homework, I am against any attempt to dictate how much they do. It's no good telling children that they should spend an hour on a piece of work, because what each child can produce in that time varies wildly."

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## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### VISUAL ART

Paintings by Gary Hume and Fiona Rae offer an illuminating contrast at the Saatchi Gallery  
OPEN: Now  
REVIEW: Tomorrow



### COMEDY

Vegetable passion: John Hegley goes *Dancing with Potatoes* for six nights at the Bloomsbury  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### CABARET

Fascinating Aida bring their mixture of humour and harmony to the Vaudeville Theatre  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday



### THEATRE

Lindsay Duncan stars as Pinter's *The Homecoming* goes on stage at the Lyttelton  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday

Am I the only one to be a little disappointed at the eventual consensus which has delivered the belt of millennial money to an already engorged South East of England? I am sorry to be a spoilsport but I am from the North. Which also matters literally in this case because we are talking about Greenwich. If a family of four from north Cumbria wanted to go to the mega-ten Metrolink Millennium, it would cost about three days and £300 at least. Most wouldn't make the journey.

I admire the tenacity of Simon Jenkins and his board. I admire the wizardry of Richard Rogers and the strategy of the Greenwich cabal which sees this as a once-for-all clean-up and set-up of the area for the 21st century. However, the scheme I propose is more just and more fun than the current Greenwich-or-bust scenario. Perhaps a glitch will yet be revealed (not such a subversive thought — how much will the thing really cost?) and this

could let in the rest of Britain and let the whole island take off. I know that the Great Exhibition and the Festival of Britain were staged in London and it is our capital, but times have changed. All over Britain there is great energy going into cities which are speaking out and ought to be heard. This is the opportunity to show off our variousness and not merely to emphasise once again the undoubted truth that London is a great world city.

Of course there should be millennial celebrations in London and there are, in fact, several on the way. I can see the attraction of one Big Bang. But that attraction peters out when you consider the multiple bangs which would come from all around these islands were power given to the cities. It would be a visible demonstration that we

can order things differently, that outside the great sun of London there are fine planets well worth the exploration. A total of £600 million seems to be available without everyone falling out. I suggest that it is split into 11 parts. Ten of £50 million each to ten cities: one of £100 million to London. The ten cities could be Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich and Southampton. A £50 million bounty for these cities would spur them on in civic competitiveness to increase the sum, double it I would guess. London with its £100 million could also be jolted into competition and who knows what booty London Pride would eventually bring.

The Greenwich project is buttressed by an appeal to the number of new jobs created. How many more new jobs would be created across Britain with ten more cities involved? At Greenwich we are shown a derelict landscape which would benefit from being cleaned up. But there is Post-Industrial Trauma in city landscapes all over Britain and they, too, need cleaning up. We are told the Greenwich venture would bring more tourists to London but how about bringing more tourists to the ten other cities? If one wanted a little fun, each of the ten could take something from one of the past ten centuries and use it as a launch pad for their spend. Southampton, for instance, could take the Norman invasion; Manchester the first Industrial Revolution; Bristol, our first century of commercial colonisation.

There is something too predictable about reacting to the millennium by plunking yet another building in London and, rather ironic that it is being put next to such a magnificent set of buildings, some of which are being flogged off. Many cities in this country have had a hard time of it recently with the termination of so many skilled and labour-intensive industries. All over the country people have been fighting to regroup and ignore the blighted landscapes of their past with its dream of everlasting employment.

# Why is London winning all the prizes?



MELVYN BRAGG

ings, some of which are being flogged off. Many cities in this country have had a hard time of it recently with the termination of so many skilled and labour-intensive industries. All over the country people have been fighting to regroup and ignore the blighted landscapes of their past with its dream of everlasting employment.

The year 2000 should be grasped as an opportunity to build a bridge to the future and escape what has been a nightmare of a century in many ways for us. London Bridge cannot be the only bridge.

The lottery money has gone overwhelmingly to London. Benefits abound in London and that is what a capital is for. But there are times when it is more imaginative

## This is his life

THE appearance of Michael Aspel and his Big Red Book is the sort of cheap thrill a critic scarcely dare hope for in the course of duty. But there they were, just as Julian Bream was about to break into a Villa-Lobos encore at the end of a concert to celebrate 50 years of professional life.

### CONCERT Julian Bream Queen Elizabeth Hall

for an instrument lacking both the resonance and the sustaining power of the cello, but Bream's unbroken legato and subtle playing over the rose made it seem effortless. Takemitsu's *In the Woods*, a suite of three pieces, was as highly distilled as Walton's *Five Bagatelles* were flamboyant. Neither Granados's *Danzas españolas* nor Bartók's *Petite Suite* was written for the guitar. While the Bartók, Bream's transcription of six pieces from the *44 Duos* for two violins, seemed stiff-jointed, the Granados was an intriguing reincarnation of music originally intended to evoke the guitar through the voice of the piano.

Bream now seemed indefatigable. If Aspel's limo had not been waiting, the party might well have gone on all night.

### Luke Clancy on the opening of a new £32m concert hall for Belfast

The building's cityside facade is extended into a shining, three-storey, curved crystal facade with a Portland stone finish on the entrance and upper courses, while on the river side, the finish is in red brick, punctured with ranks of compact, square windows.

tered, while also maintaining a sense of labyrinthine mystery, with plunging stairwells and viewing platforms dotting the upper storeys. The finish is white, with steel, wood and glass — as the signature materials.

Once inside the main auditorium, the impression is of acoustic functionality, with the steeply raked terrace seats grouped into a series of reverberating canals. The steep rake of the upper balconies keeps the acoustic precise and the auditorium disarmingly intimate, even though it seats well over 2,000. A further structure nestling alongside the main oval houses a 500-seat studio theatre.

In the future, it is likely that the hall itself will stand out a little less boldly on Laggan. The central structure, already flanked by boardings bearing the name of an international hotel chain, will soon be joined by 450,000 square feet of offices, a multi-storey car park and a shopping area.

A sense that the Waterfront might also offer a strong platform for the enhancement of corporate prestige was clear from the enormous logo of the hall's first season sponsor, emblazoned in green laser light across the building's facade.

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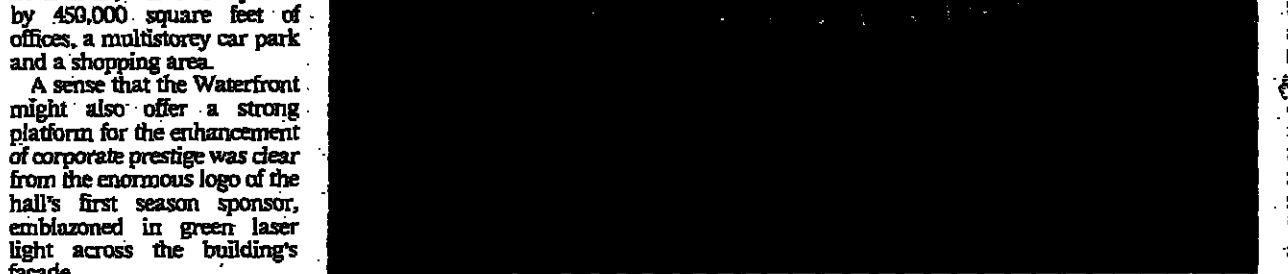
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Douglas directed his encore a little more deliberately towards the crowd, and closed with a solo piano rendition of the evening's most popular tune. It was certainly not the last time that *Danny Boy* would drift through the Waterfront Hall.

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## Give chief officers full authority

Michael Howard explains the reasoning behind the Police Bill

The provisions in the Police Bill which will be debated in the Lords today have properly received a great deal of attention. But much of the debate has been based on a misunderstanding of the nature of the police operations covered by the Bill, their importance in the fight against serious crime, and the extent to which police would be inhibited in fighting it if proposals by Labour and the Liberal Democrats were accepted.

The police have been undertaking such operations for decades with considerable success and without giving rise to complaints. Over the past 30 or 40 years, the need to exploit modern surveillance techniques has grown as the threat from organised crime has developed. The police have made it clear that they cannot effectively combat the criminal gangs who engage in terrorism, major drug-trafficking, armed robbery, kidnapping and so on unless they can take advantage of a range of techniques.

Up to now these operations have had no statutory authority. Administrative guidelines were issued in 1977 and strengthened in 1984. Under these guidelines, intrusive surveillance must be a last resort, when other methods have failed or are believed likely to fail. But we recognise that authorisation of these operations should be put on a statutory basis, with close and effective judicial scrutiny of the use of these techniques.

This is what the Police Bill provides. It creates the new post of surveillance commissioner, who will be a former or serving High Court judge and who will review authorisations and investigate complaints. Chief constables can now be asked to appear in court to justify their decisions, and a number have been cross-examined. The new Bill retains this means of calling chief officers to account, and adds the commissioner's scrutiny, in which he will identify any chief constable who has used his powers improperly.

The Bill does not relax the existing guidelines. It is simply wrong to suggest that it authorises the police to eavesdrop on the private conversations of anyone who speaks to a lawyer, journalist or doctor. Surveillance may be authorised only if it is necessary to prevent serious crime, and may be used only against those engaged in such crime. A Times leader of January 18 suggested that whether judicial scrutiny should take place before or after the authorisation of such operations depends upon whether prior authorisation would undermine the Bill's effectiveness. The argument depends upon a full understanding of the nature and purpose of intrusive surveillance. The investigation of serious and organised crime requires techniques such as recording conversations of criminals in public places, placing tracking devices on vehicles and sometimes entering property such as garages and warehouses, and, more rarely, residential homes. New information may suddenly send a complex investigation in a different direction. It may be vital to the success of an investigation to track the movements of a vehicle or to

monitor a conversation. Weighing up the merits of different courses of action and being able to act decisively may make the difference between success and failure, or even life or death.

These are operational judgments which only very senior police officers are qualified to make. They have the experience and training to make such decisions. They have detailed knowledge of the investigation and the methods previously tried, and they know the risk to the public or to individuals if surveillance is not attempted. As at least one judge has acknowledged, it is impossible for a judge to put himself fairly in the chief constable's shoes.

Some commentators have argued for prior judicial authorisation by making a comparison with the system for obtaining search warrants. But the comparison is false. Unlike operations under the new Bill, search warrants are executed with the full knowledge of those under investigation. The purpose is to obtain evidence for possible criminal proceedings. That is properly a matter for the courts. By contrast, intrusive surveillance is covert. And a delay in making a decision or withholding of authority could jeopardise a whole investigation.

And this is why operational decisions must remain with the police. Their very nature means that prior judicial authorisation of intrusive surveillance would inhibit the effectiveness of operations. I am not prepared to take that risk. It seems the opposition parties are.

The Liberal Democrat proposals would mean judges taking operational decisions. That is not their role. Under Labour's proposals, the commissioner would be both authorising operations and investigating complaints arising from them. He would have to second-guess the chief constable and substitute his own judgment. Neither the circuit judge nor the commissioner could be called upon by the court to justify his decision in any resulting prosecution. This crucial accountability would disappear under the Opposition's amendments.

The Government has itself proposed a number of changes to the Bill to strengthen the judicial scrutiny. These will require all authorisations to be notified to the commissioner as soon as reasonably practicable. In many cases, such as those infringing legal, journalistic or medical confidentiality, the commissioner will be under a statutory duty to review the authorisation within 48 hours. He will have power to quash any authorisation that was not properly given, and to order the destruction of information obtained. To ensure that the review process is speedy and thorough, we will be providing for more than one commissioner.

I believe that our proposals strike the right balance between protecting civil liberties and giving the police the tools they need. The Chief Constable of Merseyside has said: "Any changes to current proposals will cause serious damage to our capacity to combat serious crime." We ignore such concerns at our peril.

The author is the Home Secretary.

In asset management as in football, payment is by results, so teams cannot afford to lose top scorers

## Why Nicola Horlick was underpaid

Last week it was easy to confuse the fund management and football businesses. Perhaps the big fund managers ought to offer new contracts to their star performers that would allow transfer fees, rather than having to bombard them with guaranteed bonuses. At the moment, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, having lost Nicola Horlick in a row that might have surprised even Tottenham Hotspur, is desperately in need of a replacement striker. At least billions of pounds of funds under management may drift away unless they find a good one. What would Carol Galley, the Eric Cantona of the Mercury Asset Management investment team, be worth to them? Certainly more than the £15 million Newcastle United paid for Alan Shearer.

Both Nicola Horlick and Carol Galley were trained in that noble academy of the modern city, the old S.G. Warburg. What would Siegmund Warburg, unquestionably the greatest banker in the London of the past 50 years, have made of the latest events? He would not have approved. For him banking was a private discipline. He did not seek publicity for himself, though he knew how to use the press to benefit his clients. He would have been horrified to see a highly paid manager storm across Europe to make a personal appeal in Frankfurt. He would have disliked it all the more because his own training was in traditional German high banking, and the Deutsche Bank was one of his closest allies in the post-war world. But Siegmund Warburg's banking era has gone: he is himself long since dead; his bank has been bought by the Swiss; all that remains intact of his creation and in British hands is Mercury Asset Management, which he never foresaw growing to anything like its present eminence. There his spirit is still revered.

By Siegmund Warburg's standards, which were exacting, Nicola Horlick's fault has been the failure to control her ego. He accepted that a dramatic sense of one's own persona

was an unavoidable part of a public career; he would have allowed for it in politicians, in actors, in journalists, in barristers — though no one wants an egotistical solicitor — and in a certain kind of entrepreneur. He knew that there were business tycoons with egos like Robert Maxwell's, though he did not always choose to act for them. He did not see banking — least of all his own bank — as an arena for the public display of personality.

This was the austere tradition in which Carol Galley and Nicola Horlick were both raised, though Nicola Horlick joined Mercury Asset Management after Siegmund Warburg's time. Carol Galley has stuck to this tradition of privacy; she did not relish the publicity which fell on her during the Granada-Forte battle. Nicola Horlick, by taking her case to the press, has broken the tribal taboos.

Women are often extremely good at fund management, as these two undoubtedly are. It is now perhaps the highest paid profession for women: their salaries and bonuses may be a multiple of those even of the top women barristers. When one considers the risks she was taking with her career, what can have induced Nicola Horlick to go public in her battle with the powers in Morgan Grenfell? After all, the public cannot force the bank to give her back her much-cherished job.

Some allowance must be made for the fact that she is a woman, not because women in business are more emotional than men, but because women working in a male environment do have to fight their corner

harder. Margaret Thatcher is an obvious example. Many men get to the top in their professions by being "good chaps" and easy for other men to get on with; no woman ever gets to the top by being a good chap. Nicola Horlick would never have held her job if she had not fought harder for it than the men who might otherwise have glided into it. Women are at best country members of the great male clubs, of the City, of the House of Commons. The insider's way of achieving their ob-

William Rees-Mogg

jectives is not often open to them. There had also been the Peter Young affair, which cost Morgan Grenfell £200 million in compensation, and a serious loss of prestige. Rightly or wrongly, Keith Percy, who had been Nicola Horlick's immediate superior and supporter, was held partly responsible for the failure to supervise Young and was disposed of. Robert Smith, her new boss, was not so sympathetic, though he seems to have recognised at first that Mrs Horlick was a rising star. These changes make people uneasy; there was unease running through Morgan Grenfell, an unease that spread to rumours of people leaving, possibly in a group. The bank itself has

been resented as a predator in attracting successful fund managers from other firms. It can be said of Morgan Grenfell, "Poach not that ye be not poached".

It must also have been difficult for everyone that the ultimate power lay not in London but in Frankfurt. The German bankers themselves must be bemused by the difficulties that are now arising in their very successful London subsidiary. The cultural gap between Frankfurt and London is a good deal wider than the gap between London and New York. An American bank might have found it easier to understand what was happening and to make an effective response.

Modern fund management is a very large business which is wholly dependent on the skills and contacts of a small leading group of successful fund managers. These successful fund managers need to combine investment skills — their funds must out-perform their rivals — with management skills and the ability to farm good relationships with the pension funds for which they are working. These skills, taken individually, are quite rare. In combination they are very rare indeed. One can go back to the question of how much Carol Galley is worth to Mercury Asset Management. She is at present its striker: she adds the extra zest which has helped to give Mercury the edge in the market. Mercury has more than £80 billion under management. Without her contribution that could well have been 10 per cent less than it is. Eight billion pounds of funds under management has a capital value of about

£250 million to the shareholders. For this Carol Galley receives, like Nicola Horlick, an income of £1 million or so including bonuses.

By football standards, or by ordinary business standards, these £1 million women stars are not only cheap at the price, but are absurdly underpaid. It is never safe to pay much less than a star asset is worth to the business. Either Nicola Horlick was adding a significant positive gain to the performance of Morgan Grenfell funds, or she should not have had her job in the first place. Apparently she had £4 billion of funds under her personal management, of the bank's total of £50 billion under management. Even if one attributes only 5 per cent of the capital value of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management to her personal contribution, that would still be £75 million. She was almost certainly worth a great deal more to the bank than they were paying her, even though they were paying her a lot. That sort of disparity always creates tensions.

In fund management most of the players can only perform as well as or rather less well than the relevant index. Such players are interchangeable and readily replaceable. There are a few star players whose investment performance actually beats the competition; they regularly get the ball into the net. They are worth their weight in gold. Around their personal skills, and their ability to earn large bonuses for themselves, their teams and their bosses, very large businesses can be and have been built. These businesses are not old-fashioned banking, or even old-fashioned fund management businesses. Those film studios that tried to handle the stars of Hollywood as though they were so many junior accountants saved the petty cash but lost the box office. Football clubs without goal-scorers lose matches. So long as Nicola Horlick's funds were performing successfully Morgan Grenfell's job was to keep her happy. In that job it has manifestly failed.

## Troubles for the victors

As well as facing the people, says Peter Riddell, the parties must face the issues

The next government will squeeze the public sector, increase the proportion of public services that are privately financed and be forced to raise taxes. I write the next government, because this will happen whoever wins the election. It has little to do with manifesto pledges. The constraints and options are already clear from the Treasury's Red Book, the economic and fiscal projections published with the Budget eight weeks ago. These figures will not only define the Cabinet's discussion of the Tory manifesto at Chequers a week today but will this afternoon be accepted by Gordon Brown as providing the overall spending framework for the first two years of a Labour government.

That is why Labour's latest propaganda campaign about a Tory fifth term — centred upon scaremongering allegations about VAT on food and a rump NHS — is so irresponsible. Of course there are differences between the parties in their attitudes to the role of the State, but the Labour campaign debases political debate by ignoring the constraints that will be common to any government.

The Tories have said little so far on what they would do in a fifth term. But there is no real mystery: there hardly could be after 18 years in office. Budgetary constraints will remain tight. Many of the assumptions on public spending in the Budget were over-optimistic, as last week's report from the cross-party Treasury committee stressed. But any post-election cuts in spending and tax rises should be much less than in 1992-94. So we would be likely to see moves towards the abolition of capital gains and inheritance taxes and, towards the end of the Parlia-



ment, income tax cut to 20p, probably offsetting increases in other taxes on consumers and companies.

Much has been made of a likely rightward shift in the Tory parliamentary party. A new report, *The Conservatives after the Election*, from Rowland Public Affairs, notes that while half the Tory MPs retiring are on the Left, with just a quarter on the Right, half the candidates in winnable seats are on the Right and less than a quarter are on the Left. Such estimates are inevitably imprecise, not least because MPs change their views. This shift matters far more with regard to Europe than domestically, where there is broad consensus within the party. The main constraint in the current Parliament has not been the balance of the Tory party but its dwindling Commons majority. Given the perhaps heroic assump-

tion of a comfortable Commons majority, a re-elected Tory government would carry on with privatisation — the Royal Mail, London Underground and a host of medium-sized and smaller public bodies — and with increasing private provision of publicly financed services. Under the umbrella of the Private Finance Initiative, the Government is already planning privately developed and run hospitals within the NHS as well as GP services provided by private sector organisations, as in the current Bill on primary healthcare. On the same lines, the Government will shortly propose allowing the private sector and voluntary bodies to bid for social services now provided by local authorities. In education, there would

be more grammar schools, more selection and more testing, but also probably private-sector competition within the sector financed by the taxpayer. This would be akin to the successful American experiment of charter schools set up by teachers and parents, which operate within the state sector but are independent.

The biggest challenge would be welfare reform. Peter Lilley has already done a lot to slow the rate of growth of social security spending and has indicated likely ways ahead in various pilot schemes on helping the long-term unemployed and single mothers back to work. For instance, the private sector is now being involved and being paid by results in terms of numbers returning to work. There is a new emphasis on requiring people to take jobs or to train in return for benefit.

Labour objects to many of these proposals, but would face the same spending dilemmas. Gordon Brown will take Labour's approach an important step forward today by saying that a new government would broadly accept the already announced spending totals for two years ahead, not just one. This is to prevent a sudden early rise in spending and to allow time for a comprehensive review of spending plans to assess the scope for the phased reallocation of budgets within and between departments. Mr Brown will argue that not all public policies require extra government spending: some involve setting standards and some involve partnerships with the private sector. However, business is wary that setting standards via, for example the minimum wage and other regulations may represent an indirect form of taxation. Partnership involves accepting private financing of public services — for instance, for a second pension in addition to the basic state one, and the replacement of grants by loans in higher education.

The doubts about a Blair or a re-elected Major government are very different, but both relate to the characters of their respective parties. Mr Brown's aims are correct, and the Shadow Cabinet has endorsed a review of spending priorities, but how many shadow spokesmen, let alone other Labour MPs, really understand, let alone accept, the implications of changing the balance of public and private provision of welfare services? The roots and heart of Labour remain in the public sector.

A re-elected Conservative government would not face such serious internal problems over public spending. Its weakness would be its deep-seated divisions and incoherence over Europe, which John Major has occasionally contained but never mastered. A victorious Mr Major would have, and deserve, a period of triumph, but that would not resolve his party's malaise. Indeed some on the Tory Right would regard an election victory as a setback to their aims. The case against re-election of Mr Major's Government has less to do with its likely policies than with the unstable state of the Tory party.

## Baton charge

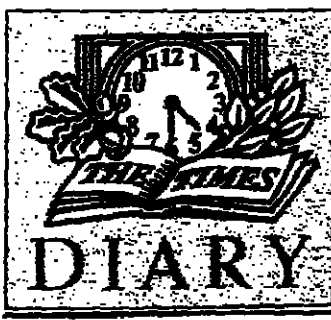
MUSICAL as well as physical changes are imminent for the Royal Opera House, with talk that Bernard Haitink, the highly respected musical director, will soon be stepping down. Haitink is nearing 70, and has had nearly nine years in the post, so when the Opera House closes for two years of renovations this summer, he may consider it an appropriate moment to make way for new blood. Lord Chadlington, the chairman of the Opera House board, has been urging Haitink to stay, but the maestro has yet to give his reply.

What is rattling the woodwind is the candidate looming as Haitink's likeliest replacement: John Elliot Gardiner, the biggest banana in the "early music" fruitbowl. He recently conducted Massenet's *Chérubin* at the Opera House, but is not felt to be popular with the orchestra. Would he, they ask, be up to conducting the Wagner and Verdi staples? His greatest asset is his knack for publicity and the fact that he has managed to sell even

the unlikelyst of recordings by the muckload. "Nothing has been decided" was all the Opera House would say. Gardiner's strongest rivals are Daniele Gatti, the former associate musical director at the House, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Mark



"I'm on a sabbatical"



Elder, a great success at the Coliseum, and the dashing maestro Valery Gergiev, currently the most popular runner, the musical director at the Kirov Opera.

Whoever it may be faces a hard job in the immediate future, keeping a notoriously fractious company together for two years on the road, far from the swag and crushed velvet of their Covent Garden home.

### Kennel club

THE STRAY DOG that was adopted by the journalists who camped outside the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima will not be homeless when the long hostage crisis is

over. The Friends of Animals Association is determined to find a Peruvian home for the beast. "He is not just the centre of attraction at the moment. He is a living thing," says Maria de Garcia, a member of the organisation, who is worried that once the crisis is resolved the animal will be forgotten.

The black-and-white terrier mix has been named "Cepa" after the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement leader Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, who had led the bold attack on the Ambassador's residence on December 17 last year. Cepa has become fond of local and foreign journalists, not least because they have been feeding him vast amounts of takeaway pizza and Japanese food over the past four weeks.

As Labour and the Tories spent much of last week in frantic talks to save the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, one of the nine members of the Millennium Commission was conspicuous by his absence. He was Michael Montague, the businessman and former chairman of the English Tourist Board, who is Labour's sole representative on the commission. Throughout the increasingly desperate late-

night meetings he was lapping up the sunshine in Hawaii.

### Full blast

SO TAKEN was Shirley Bassey, the perennial songbird from Tiger Bay, with the acoustics in the Palace of Westminster that she decided to test them properly. Walking through the central lobby after a dinner recently with Sir Ray Powell, MP for Ogmore, she com-



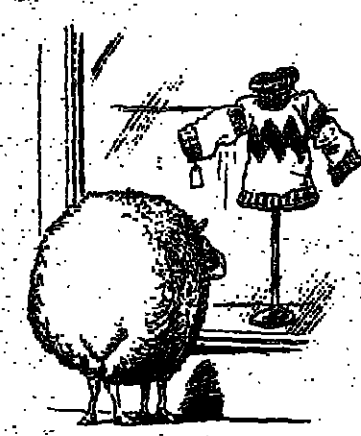
Bringing the House down

mented that the acoustics seemed to be good and — not a being shy girl — promptly belted out two numbers at the top of her voice. "By God, she has a fine pair of lungs," marvelled one old buffer who stopped to listen.

As the end of the month approaches, those who have given up alcohol for January are anticipating the first refreshing draughts of wine. But not the iron-willed Hartlepool MP, Peter Mandelson. He is forwarding alcohol until after the general election, to keep his wits about him during this momentous time.

### New ewe

WILLIE RUSHTON is naturally much missed at *The Literary Review*, where he was the cover cartoonist. But his successor has already decided what he will be doing for his first magazine front. Chris Riddell, the political cartoonist, will be taking as his subject Lord Byron — whose sexual adventures are analysed in a new biography, which debates whether Byron was actually a sexual hero or a wimp.



"Do not consider your possessions to be yours alone" — from Riddell's *Buddhism for Sheep*

Riddell is very partial to drawing sheep. His last book was a useful guide called *Buddhism for Sheep*. "Sheep seeking enlightenment should definitely consult this book," he advises. His next book is likely to be a guide to Feng Shui — the Chinese art of arranging interiors. Also for sheep.





## THE EDUCATION VOTE

Why political campaigners mark the classroom so high

Today we publish the first of our "Ballot 97" guides to election issues. These are designed to peel away the party propaganda and analyse as scrupulously as possible the record and the promises in every area of policy. Each week until polling day, our team of *Times* writers will continue this audit, bringing the best of their expertise to bear on the claims, the gloss and the facts. By the end of the long campaign, as we promised last Friday, we hope that readers of *The Times* will be the best equipped in Britain for delivering judgment on their elected rulers.

We begin the series on page 6 today with education, likely to be one of the election campaign's hottest political footballs. Because of its impact on the economy, education is important to every voter. But a very high proportion are also directly involved because they themselves, their children or their grandchildren are at school, college or university. When asked what issue will be very important in deciding their allegiance, voters cite education second only to health.

As a public service, education is a particularly frustrating issue for parents and grandparents. The difference in quality between the state and private sectors is so great, except at the very top end of the state sector, that many of those who can afford to send their children to private schools tend to do so. The financial impact upon them is enormous. Unlike health, where people can choose to pay the occasional sum for private treatment, education is an all or nothing service. If parents choose the private route, they commit themselves to many thousands of pounds a year for up to 14 years.

Some feel that they are doing so under duress; they would happily switch to the state sector if only it were good enough. The savings they could make would dwarf any tax cut, so the prize to any party which

managed to make state schools as good as they are in Germany could be glittering.

It is not as if the Government has not tried. The Tories can be accused of coming to education late; their first big reform Bill did not reach the statute book until 1988. But since then there has been a raft of measures designed to raise standards. From the introduction of the national curriculum, through testing, league tables and opting out, the idea has been to put pressure on schools to introduce more academic rigour.

For pupils near the top of the ability range, these reforms seem to have made a difference, though still not enough for some parents. More pupils now go to university, pass A levels and gain five or more good GCSEs than five years ago. Even allowing for a degree of grade inflation, this is some achievement. The gap between the best and the rest is still, however, far too wide.

In every subject, the range of achievement between the best and least able children is greater in Britain than elsewhere. That is why issues such as homework have political potency. As our features on pages 16 and 17 illustrate, both pupils and parents are ambivalent about the practice. But homework does help to show teachers what children have grasped. And it delivers results. A study by the University of Illinois has found that pupils who had done no homework could rise from the middle of their age group to the top third by working out of school.

In a modern economy which has fewer and fewer jobs for unqualified workers any policy that enables poor performers to catch up must be worth adopting. Labour's call for compulsory homework may sound punitive and centralist. But it seems to have caught the spirit of the times. Too many parents feel that their children are not achieving their potential at state schools. To judge by the polls, the Tories have yet to convince them that their solutions are enough.

## SPEAK OUT FOR BUSINESS

Labour's industrial policies must not go unchallenged

Is all the fuss made in Britain about flexible labour markets just a political diversion? Are businessmen really indifferent to minimum wages, state interference in employment conditions and the whole European "social partnership" agenda of labour, regulations and government-mandated trade union powers? This will be the impression conveyed by Tony Blair tomorrow morning, when he speaks at the launch of a supposedly non-partisan "manifesto for British business", signed by several prominent industrial leaders, including the chief executives of GEC, Legal & General and British Aerospace.

To the surprise of the conference participants and the mild embarrassment of its organisers, Mr Blair will be followed immediately by a previously uninvited speaker, Michael Heseltine. The Deputy Prime Minister's decision to invite himself into the lion's den and deliver a keynote rebuttal to Mr Blair's keynote speech deserves full marks.

In terms of political tactics, Mr Heseltine is obviously trying to upstage Mr Blair at a media event carefully orchestrated to convey the impression that business now stands four-square behind Labour. But Mr Heseltine's intervention should be seen as more than a short-term spoiler. It marks a recognition that Ministers will have to work harder than ever to emphasise the coherence of their policies on business, employment and economic growth. Unless the Tories make continuous efforts to raise their voices and draw attention to the successes of the industrial policies of the past 17 years, Labour's natural preference for the social chapter, the minimum wage and the corporatist economic model could go unanswered.

A good example of the challenge the Tories now face was last week's propaganda coup

for Labour, when Ford's decision to stop production at Halewood of its poorly performing Escort model was widely seen as evidence that the relative ease of hiring and firing workers in Britain was destroying jobs. This is a specious argument, which almost no serious economists or businessmen in Britain or even in Europe, would endorse. Even on the Centre-Left it is now broadly accepted that the jobs created by allowing flexible employment far outweigh the jobs lost by restraining the employer's right to manage the workforce. The jobs "saved" by companies that are forced to act against their own business interests are rarely preserved for long.

Most British businessmen understand such arguments very well, but the Tories may no longer be able to rely on them as vocal cheerleaders. Businessmen still strongly support the free-market reforms introduced by Margaret Thatcher in 1979. They see no advantages and many potential perils in joining the social chapter. They oppose minimum wages unless they are set at such low levels as to have almost no effect. But business are first and foremost interested in doing business — and that includes doing business with whichever Party is in power.

This is especially true of the leaders of large companies which depend on public orders, benefit from special tax concessions or function under close government and European regulation — precisely the sort of companies prominent in Labour's list of the good and the great. The widespread conviction that Mr Blair will probably be the next Prime Minister means that many of the natural spokesmen for pro-business, free-market policies have recently become tongue-tied. In the coming months, Mr Heseltine will have to speak even more frequently and loudly than usual.

## HENRY'S HOARD

When furs and lace were more than luxuries

We should not be surprised that Henry VIII, that rumbustious and expansive radical monarch, had wardrobes full of darts, tennis balls and toothpicks. Patient list-makers led by Dr David Starkey of the London School of Economics are on the brink of publishing the inventory of Henry's household at the time of his death; 100,000 items right down to the incomplete chess set which has been a staple item in every English home since that era. But the opulence and extent of the possessions need not strike us as at all odd.

Two glances at contemporary fashion will set Henry's hoard in perspective. If a global television audience is fascinated by Ruby Wax's investigation into the contents of the Duchess of York's fridge, we should remember that preoccupation with royal trivia has a long pedigree. A quick look at last week's newspapers also displays an enduring royal habit of taking care of the image. Diana, Princess of Wales, with an experienced feel for the media, ensured that every photograph which appeared of her during her trip to Angola showed her in working clothes, equipped with pen, serious expression or folders of documents. The symbols conveyed a message: this person means business.

Outward signs of grandeur, power and wealth mattered even more to Henry VIII. His spin-doctors might have claimed, the

divine right of kings, but there were foreign powers, fractious nobles and the grandees of the Church to massage all the same. With no newspapers and no television, a sovereign's political image was boosted or damaged by his appearance and immediate surroundings. In an age when power and authority could be conveyed only by word of mouth, the trappings of office or royalty were equipment essential to making the magic work. Cardinal Wolsey, as he commuted to work from one end of Hampton Court Palace to the other, was preceded as he walked by others who solemnly carried the Great Seal of England, his cardinal's hat, a pair of silver crosses and two silver pillars.

Kings like Henry fluffed up their royal plumage to achieve carefully targeted diplomatic ends. The meeting with Francis I of France at the Field of the Cloth of Gold was one of the most sumptuous picture-opportunities of its age. Five thousand people attended Henry and his Queen; six thousand built tents and pavilions on a scale which would put the Millennium Commission to shame. But this conspicuous consumption had a point: to make Spain worry that it might soon face an Anglo-French alliance. It worked. As a royal visit or a deftly timed soundbite may be part of modern statecraft, so jewellery, furs and lace were not mere luxuries to Tudor kings.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Paying a just price for higher fees in the civil courts

From Mr Francis Macleod Matthews

Sir, It was disappointing to see such a strident attack by Sir Richard Scott on the civil court fee increases (report, January 14). These increases were introduced, at least partly, at the suggestion of the Bar and the Law Society, through the Heilbrunn committee appointed in 1992 to look at ways in which civil justice could be improved.

It is unlikely that these groups, traditionally seen as self-interested, would have made a proposal that would deny access to justice to significant numbers of their clients. In fact there are strong arguments in favour of a system under which the user pays for the administrative cost of the civil courts.

Under the English system the unsuccessful party already bears the costs of the other party to the litigation. This has long been thought fair because it is the unsuccessful party who caused them to be incurred. Under the new system, court fees will be recoverable from the unsuccessful party, so this is at most a modest extension of the same principle. Moreover, in contested cases, the court fees pale into insignificance by comparison with lawyers' costs.

At present, irrespective of their means or the merits of their arguments, litigants are subsidised by taxpayers: they do not pay the full cost of the court administration. If litigation costs are to be subsidised, it is only right that the subsidy should be targeted at those who lack means and

whose cases appear to have merit. Legal aid will bear court costs where those criteria are met.

Yours etc,  
FRANCIS MACLEOD MATTHEWS,  
12 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,  
January 14.

From Mr A. A. S. Zuckerman

Sir, Sir Richard Scott, a prominent judge and head of the civil justice system, protests over higher court fees, saying: "Access to justice requires that justice should be reasonably accessible without excessive cost. Civil proceedings are already very expensive." But court fees are insignificant, in size and in their effect on access to justice, compared with lawyers' fees.

Lawyers charge their clients by the hour, without limit and regardless of the outcome of the case. As a result the cost of litigation in England is exorbitant, disproportionate and unpredictable. A survey has revealed that in nearly a third of the cases with a value of less than £12,500 the cost to one party alone is between £10,000 and £20,000; costs in excess of £20,000 were noted in nearly a further tenth of the sample.

We have reached, therefore, the situation where only either the very rich or that shrinking proportion of the poor which the State can still afford to support with legal aid have access to justice.

For the rest of us, taking our griev-

ances to court is simply out of reach. Curiously, judges hardly ever protest about this much more serious constraint on access to justice.

I, for one, would not much mind paying the extra £100 in court fees, to which Sir Richard objects, if, by exerting greater control over litigation, the judge could limit the amount of litigious work done by lawyers and reduce by a few thousand my liability to lawyers' fees: which aim is part of the Lord Chancellor's strategy.

Yours sincerely,  
ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN  
(Fellow in Law),  
University College, Oxford,  
January 14.

From Mr Bruce Cairns

Sir, I foresee another serious consequence of the rises in court fees. Where a civil litigant is legally aided, the court fees are paid by the Legal Aid Fund. There will therefore soon be a significant increase in legal aid expenditure as a direct result of the Lord Chancellor's action.

Can we assume that this will be brought to the attention of the public the next time he (or the next Lord Chancellor) bemoans the high cost of providing legal aid?

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE CAIRNS,  
Morton Fisher (solicitors),  
Bank House,  
12-13 The Foregate, Worcester,  
January 14.

### Doctors and Police Bill

From the Chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, BMA, and others

Sir, The medical profession supports the fight against serious crime. But the Police Bill (letters, January 8, 10, 14, 18) gives the police statutory powers to break into medical premises, install listening devices and intercept and monitor telephone conversations between doctors and their patients.

Such infringements of the confidential relationship between doctors and their patients could be justified only in the rarest circumstances. They must be subject to the most stringent controls, in relation not only to authorisation but also to the disposal of material which will inevitably be gathered about patients wholly innocent of any connection with serious crime. The Government must, as a matter of urgency, explain how these issues are to be addressed.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN G. BOGLE,  
Chairman, General Medical Services Committee, BMA,  
NORMAN BROWSE  
(Chairman, Joint Consultants Committee),  
DONALD IRVINE  
(President, General Medical Council),  
JAMES N. JOHNSON  
(Chairman, Central Consultants and Specialists Committee, BMA),  
A. W. MACARA  
(Chairman of Council, BMA),  
NAREN PATEL  
(Chairman, Academy of Royal Colleges),  
KEITH PETERS  
(Chairman, Council of Deans of UK Medical Schools and Faculties),  
LESLIE TURNBERG  
(Chairman, Specialist Training Authority),  
British Medical Association,  
BMA House, Tavistock Square, WCI,  
January 17.

### Lyceum discovery

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, In your coverage of the latest archaeological discovery in Athens (reports and leading article, January 16), Aristotle's Lyceum is described as "the first university" and "the forerunner of the modern university" which "started the great tradition of a community of scholars, standing on the intellectual shoulders and carrying on the work of their great predecessor".

Such an honour — if that is what it is — surely belongs to Plato's Academy, which was founded fifty years earlier and which Aristotle himself attended for twenty years before founding his own university.

Yours etc,  
NICOLAS WALTER,  
88 Islington High Street, N1,  
January 16.

### Labour and schools

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, The letters you published on January 16 criticising Labour local government give a rather distorted view of reality. The fact is that many of the innovations which the Government has adopted were first tried out in Labour authorities.

Baseline assessment and targets have been working successfully in Birmingham for several years. Labour authorities like Croydon and Hammersmith and Fulham have acted promptly to turn failing schools around. Camden gets far better exam results in London than the Tory flagships of Wandsworth and Westminster. Authorities such as Newcastle and Lewisham are leading the way in improving inner-city schools.

The Government has removed many local education authority powers to act, yet then accuses them of failing to do so. However, there are some

### Expanding cost of private healthcare

From the Chief Executive of Frimley Park Hospital

Sir, William Rees-Mogg suggests "Closing the health and education gaps". January 13) that expansion of private healthcare must depend on governments.

The management of this hospital realised some years ago that private healthcare could come directly to the aid of the cash-strapped NHS. The granting of trust status enabled us to take matters into our own hands and build a private wing, which last year contributed £1 million in extra income to help care for NHS patients.

The problem for us and trusts like ours is not government inaction but hostile action by health insurers, who also have an interest in running private hospitals. Some discriminate against private wings in NHS hospitals and insist that, regardless of the wishes of patient or doctor, polytholders are treated in hospitals which the insurer owns or in which it has an interest.

It is, of course, a different story if the treatment does not go according to plan: the private hospital is only too grateful that the back-up facilities (such as intensive care) of the NHS are at hand.

It is time there was proper recognition that without the safety net of the NHS the cost of private healthcare would have to be a great deal higher.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW MORRIS,  
Chief Executive,  
Frimley Park Hospital,  
Portsmouth Road,  
Frimley, Camberley, Surrey,  
January 15.

From the Chief Executive of the Independent Healthcare Association

Sir, I strongly agree with William Rees-Mogg's view that greater use of private expertise and finance is needed across UK healthcare. The UK's independent health and social care sector is the only viable way forward for politicians of the Left and Right. After all, to push up taxes yet

further would undermine the UK's global competitiveness and result in even higher levels of poverty.

The independent health and social care sector employs 500,000 people. In addition to performing 20 per cent of the country's elective surgery, it provides 76 per cent of the nation's long-stay provision and is the tenth largest employer.

Yours sincerely,  
B. F. HASSELL,  
Chief Executive,  
Independent Healthcare Association,  
22 Little Russell Street, WCI,  
January 14.

From Mr Malcolm Fellowes-Freeman

Sir, William Rees-Mogg is correct that there is a desperate shortage of hospice beds in Bristol but goes too far in suggesting that to get in your doctor must "sign a chit guaranteeing you will be dead within two weeks".

St Peter's concentrates on working in partnership with GPs to keep patients leading their own lives for as long as possible. The beds are used for short periods of intensive medical management before patients go home again, or to give their relatives a rest. Only just over half the patients admitted die within St Peter's, as our services are increasingly provided in patients' homes.

Rees-Mogg's overall point, that the Government should improve health provision by expanding the independent sector, is well made. St Peter's receives just one quarter of its running costs from the NHS. A few additional hospice beds in the city are provided by a private hospital but, without Budget measures to encourage giving or spending on healthcare, charities such as ours are struggling to meet the community's needs.

Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM FELLOWES-FREEMAN  
(Chief Executive),  
St Peter's Hospice,  
St Agnes Avenue, Knowle, Bristol,  
January 15.

### Press and Prince

From the Editor of Debreit's Peetage

Sir, If the British press gave the Prince of Wales good works a fraction of the space it devotes to his private life there would be no need for the Prince's charity leaders to "just off the Prince of Wales's halo" (report, January 11).

When will the Prince receive the press coverage he needs and deserves?

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES JIDD,  
Editor, Debreit's Peetage,  
73-77 Britannia Road, SW6.

### Promotion of drugs

From Mr M. I. Webb

Sir, In the light of a recent radio interview ("Pop group banned over 'Ecstasy is safe' claim", report, January 17) should we now consider making the act of promoting the illegal use of drugs a punishable offence?

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE WEBB,  
Smiddy House, Auchencrow,  
Eyemouth, Berwickshire,  
January 17.

From Mr Andrew Newton

Sir, The threat by the NUT to penalise children for attending private nursery schools (report, January 13) bodes ill for any future Labour government promising to introduce new union-free policies. It seems even worse than the direct action taken by unions during the Seventies, in that innocent children are being threatened for their parents' legal decision.

This attempt at bullying by a national union is evidence of the dangers of a monopoly even in the provision of education, and exemplifies the need to offer parents a choice of schools and teachers.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW NEWTON (Chairman, Social Security Committee),  
The Bow Group,  
92 Bishop's Bridge Road, W2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

### Disputed criteria for Oxbridge entry

From Dr C. F. Forsyth

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("In praise of the second class", January 15) criticises Oxbridge admissions, with which I have been closely involved for 14 years. Notwithstanding the regular, but increasingly implausible, protestations from the examining boards about the maintenance of standards, there are several applicants with three or more grades A at A level or tipped by their school to do that well for each Oxbridge place. Consequently, it is simply impossible for admissions tutors to do what Mr Jenkins says they do: adopt mechanistically meritocratic admissions policies in which examination performance is the only relevant criterion.

Today, as in the past, those responsible for admissions have to make judgments in which examination performance is but one factor. This is not always the best guide to potential academic merit. Only the most boneheaded will fail to realise that a mediocre student who is well taught at a good school may do very well in an examination while a very good student badly taught at a bad school will do much less well. Yet that second student is the one who should be offered a place.

So the admissions judgment is complicated and difficult, and mistakes are often made. It is no disgrace not to be made an offer. Nonetheless, the ancient universities (and their colleges) — just like other universities — are committed to academic excellence. It would thus be to deny their nature to make admissions decisions on extraneous criteria such as good "connections".

The most important criterion in admissions must, therefore, always be an assessment — albeit imperfect — of potential academic merit. How could it, in justice, be otherwise?

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER FORSYTH,  
Robinson College, Cambridge,  
January 15.

From Mr Simon Pattinson

Sir, The views of Simon Jenkins are supported by J. C. Masterman, among other things Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, 1957-58, in his autobiography published in 1978:

"The decisive argument is simply this: in selection for entry one should look for promise rather than for previous performance. Mistakes will be made, but the dividends which accrue will far more than compensate for them. The alternative is a college spoiled by uniformity and overpopulated by decent mediocrities."

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON PATTINSON,  
Grove Cottage,  
Hooe, Battle, East Sussex.

### Landmines legacy

From the Chairman and the UK Director of Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal

Sir, Bravo Princess Diana! As an organisation that has the depressingly sad task of picking up the pieces by making artificial legs for Afghan war-wounded, we applaud her initiative (letter, January 17). Since 1986 we have supplied more than 7,000 artificial legs to Afghan men, women and children — nearly all of them mine victims. Anything that anybody can do to curb the terrible damage caused by mines is enormously worthwhile.

The Princess visited our clinic in Peshawar in September 1991. She saw children who had both legs blown off. She knows what she is talking about.

Yours faithfully,  
SANDY GALL (Chairman),  
ELEANOR GALL (UK Director),  
Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal,  
PO Box 145, Tonbridge, Kent,  
January 17.

### Great survivors

From the Reverend A. C. C. Courtald

Sir, In the wake of the magnificent rescue of Tony Bullimore by the Australian Navy you printed a list of other notable survivors ("Tested to the limit", January 10).

May I suggest that such a list might include my late father, Augustine Courtald, who, while taking part in the British Arctic Air-Route Expedition 1930-31, survived for five months alone in a small tent on the Greenland icecap with no communication with the outside world.

For the last six weeks, while his rations were running out, he was literally entombed by the snow, which completely covered his tent and prevented his escape until the rescue party arrived.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER COURTAULD,  
St Paul's Vicarage,  
32 Wilton Place, SW1,  
January 16.

### Mezzanine melodies

From Mr Stephen Baxter

Sir, Mrs Tullio's letter today about "superior lift music" reminds me of the button which I spotted recently in a lift in a Sydney hotel. It was marked "Cancel Music".

Can we hope that this brilliant idea will catch on here?

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN BAXTER,  
16 Milner Street, SW3,  
January 18.







## OBITUARIES

## NEVILLE CRUMP

Neville Crump, racing trainer, died on January 18 aged 86. He was born on December 27, 1910.

A bluff, outspoken trainer of the old school, with a rum-bustious, outsize personality, Neville Crump enjoyed a career of immense success spanning more than half a century. He saddled no fewer than ten winners of various Nationals — three at Aintree, five Scottish and two Welsh.

Crump forged his reputation in the Yorkshire racing centre of Middleham where, over a period of four decades, he became its undisputed grand seigneur, while remaining, at the same time, an evergreen enfant terrible. Riding out to early exercise, for instance, he was much given to rousing slumbering inhabitants with loud and unmusical song, belaboured comments on idleness, or even a blast on the hunting horn.

He first took out a licence in 1937, but it was not until 1948 that his career took the turn which was to lead to fame and great repute. The catalyst for this sudden change was the nine-year-old mare, Sheila's Cottage. Only half-bred, headstrong and with a tendency to bite and kick, she had passed the post in the 1947 Grand National ahead of everything else — but without a rider. She next ran in the Scottish National, then held at Bogside on the Ayrshire coast.

There she looked like winning. But her rider, Arthur Thompson, later blamed himself for driving her too hard into the downhill fence three from home. She lost her footing, unseated him, then promptly galloped into the sea, swam an inlet, and was finally retrieved by Crump from Irvine police station at midnight.

The next year, Sheila's Cottage was sold to John Proctor, who combined deep-sea fishing interests in Grimsby with keeping the Lord Nelson public house in the nearby Lincolnshire town of Brigg. He paid £3,500 for the mare. But that sum was quickly recouped when, in the 1948 Grand National, she was driven past First of the Dandies on the run-in and won with a length to spare at the generous odds of 50-1.

After that life was transformed for Crump. It was interesting to note, too, that Sheila's Cottage seemed to possess several of the same characteristics as her trainer — among them an eccentricity, an almost impetuous resolution and a reckless honesty. If Crump did not actually live, many an unsaddling enclosure as well as the



Middleham gallops would resound to the bark of his strictures.

Before the turning point in his life, Crump had had, at best, a half-dozen horses in his yard. Within a few months he had thirty and a new yard had to be built. In the subsequent 15 National Hunt seasons, Crump appeared ten times among the top six in the trainers' list — and was first, twice.

Neville Franklin Crump was born near Croydon, the son of Charles Crump, who was a superb horseman and later master of foxhounds. He had returned to England after ranching in Australia to marry and retrieve his family fortunes by manufacturing cheese in the West Country. Crump was in the saddle at an early age and in the hunting field.

Educated at Marlborough he had no pretensions to academic brilliance, yet managed to gain a place at Balliol, where he scraped a pass degree. What Jowett might have made of his later career is an interesting speculation. Nevertheless, at least as far as training racehorses was concerned, Crump illustrated the adage about Balliol men: that you

could tell one anywhere, but you could not tell him much.

Oxford also bestowed other gifts on Crump. He joined the OU Cavalry Squadron, an experience which was invaluable when, on going down, he took a commission in Winston Churchill's old regiment, the 4th Hussars, and began to make a name for himself as a rider in point-to-points. But his Regular Army career was relatively brief because he strongly held to the notion that cavalry should be primarily concerned with horses, not tanks.

Resigning from the Army in 1935 he went as assistant, paying a premium for the privilege, to Sonny Hall at Russley Park, near Swindon. Crump then took out a trainer's licence and, at the end of 1937, moved to Upavon on Salisbury Plain. Despite having only a few horses, he had early success, one of the riders he employed being his exact contemporary, and eventually parallel giant of the National Hunt training scene, Fulk Walwyn. In fact, Walwyn's final winner, before he was forced to retire from the saddle through injury, was for Neville Crump, and a lasting

friendship between the two dated from those days.

In 1939 war brought a temporary halt to Crump's training activities. He was recalled into the North Somerset Yeomanry who were dispatched to Palestine. On their conversion into a signals unit, however, Crump returned to the UK and in 1941 was (ironically in the light of his views) put in charge of tank training at Barnard Castle, Co Durham. Here, he grew to love the North of England. By the time the war was over, he had resumed training on a small scale and shortly afterwards moved to Middleham and found an invaluable, talented and loyal ally in the Irish-born rider, Arthur Thompson, himself a former Desert Rat and prisoner of war.

The year after the crucial victory of Sheila's Cottage at Aintree, Crump sent out the first of his five Scottish National winners. This was the brave little horse Wot No Sun, owned by Captain Tom Wilson. Although never successful in the Grand National itself, he was, nevertheless, runner-up to the great Freebooter in 1950, and third in his stable-companion Teal, two years later.

Teal, second of Crump's Grand National triumphs, was another former point-to-point horse, but one who was on offer for sale as a very young horse for only £5 in his native Tipperary. Eventually, a brilliant jumper, Teal was bought for £3,000 by the builder, Harry Lane, and when he won narrowly at Aintree in 1952, after a long tussle with Dorothy Paget's Legal Joy, he landed an enormous six-figure gamble for his owner.

Teal and Wot No Sun apart, Crump had a further runner in the race, Skyrhelme, ridden by Dick Francis. Skyrhelme fell, but the previous season had won the Welsh National at Chepstow.

Crump's third and final Grand National victory came in 1960 with Merryman II in the first televised coverage of the big race and the last over its old-style formidable fences before they were modified. Merryman II was yet another ex-point-to-point, owned by Winifred Wallace. Winner of the Foxhunter's Chase over a circuit of the National course the previous season, it was rated by Crump the best Liverpool horse he ever trained. In 1959 he had won for his trainer a second Scottish National. At Aintree, the fact that he started as the 13/2 favourite, and easily justified the confidence by 15 lengths, was some indication of the

public's faith in Crump's ability, for the horse's preparation had been badly interrupted.

Crump's success was not, of course, confined to the various Nationals. He saddled three winners of the Whitbread Gold Cup — Much Obligated, Hoodwinked and Dormant — while in 1962 he was responsible for the first two in the Hennessey Gold Cup, Lord Jockey's Springbok beating his stable-companion Rough Tweed. Among other popular Crump horses were the front-running Shining Gold, Arcturus, Chesapeake Bay, Whispering Grace, Ice Plant, Goosander, and Ballet Lord. The trainer also showed his mastery on the Flat: his winning hurdler Kapatwarwo (the strange name is a dominoes term) also broke the five-furlong record at Thirsk, while Sporting Statue topped the Northern Free Handicap.

Although the peak of his career had been reached by the late Sixties, the stable continued to send out winners, and Crump was 72 years old when, in 1983, Canton became his fifth Scottish National winner. Only three years before that, he had taken the race with Salkeld and, in that same season, the Welsh National for a second time with Narvik.

Crump retired in 1989, maintaining to the last a steadfast contempt both for humbug and double-dealing. His robustly Chaucerian sense of humour was matched by a combustible turn of phrase, whose directness was a mask for a kind heart. In technical terms, his immense success as a trainer was rooted in meticulous attention to detail, unfailingly running a horse on its merits and, above all, an uncanny understanding of horses. He was a great believer in the use of the loose school for teaching horses to jump and giving them confidence. If a horse fell, he saw it as a failure on his part.

A further uncompromising characteristic was his refusal to train for bookmakers; and if an owner suggested a horse should not run an honest race, that horse was dispatched forthwith from Warwick House. In addition, Crump was well served by a staff and by riders, notably Arthur Thompson, Gerry Scott, and Pat Buckley, the loyalty of all of whom he unstintingly reciprocated.

In 1937 Neville Crump married Sylvia Diana (Brown) Bradley. She predeceased him in 1992. He is survived by his daughter, Sarah, whose son Crump had hoped might succeed him at Warwick House. This, sadly, proved not to be feasible.

## STANLEY HYLAND



Stanley Hyland, television producer, died on January 18 aged 82. He was born on January 26, 1914.

STANLEY HYLAND was Harold Wilson's favourite television producer. For many years Wilson insisted on being produced only by Hyland in both party political and ministerial broadcasts — something which would arouse fierce protests from rival spin-doctors today. Wilson's relationship with Hyland was so close that his BBC colleagues nicknamed him Gold Microphone in Waiting.

Hyland's career did not depend on Wilson's patronage, however, for he had a useful all-round background in television. He helped to introduce the now familiar type of Do-It-Yourself programmes. In addition, he wrote three detective novels, including *Who Goes Hang?*, based on his own experience of the House of Commons and which was reviewed enthusiastically by J.B. Priestley. When he left the BBC he founded HyVision, one of the first organisations to train politicians and industrialists in television techniques.

Hyland was Yorkshire-born — one of the factors which helped his relationship with Wilson — and educated at Bradford Grammar School. He came to London, had a

variety of jobs, and studied part-time at Birkbeck College, where he took an arts degree. He then joined the staff of the House of Commons, working for several years in its library.

He began his BBC career with the World Service at Bush House but soon transferred to television in the old Talks Department at Lime Grove, where he came under the eye of the formidable Grace Wyndham Goldie.

He was the producer of *Bucknell's House* — an unlikely production from the intellectually arrogant Talks Department. This was the first television programme to tap the large market of DIY viewers. A house was purchased by the BBC and refurbished week-by-week by the presenter, Barry Bucknell.

Hyland rose to become chief assistant in the BBC's Current Affairs Department, by which time he was specialising in political programmes. Wilson and Hyland formed a mutual attachment through their close association — though in the end this probably did not help Hyland's progress upwards within the corporation. He produced almost all of Wilson's key broadcasts, from his 1964 last election appeal through the "pound in your pocket" devaluation broadcast in 1967 and continuing until Hyland left the BBC to found his own firm.

Somewhat coyly calling it HyVision, he started with a number of useful contracts, including the police, and although he eventually ceased to head the firm he remained a consultant for many years.

His life changed tragically in 1994 when a car he was driving was involved in an accident which resulted in his wife being killed and Hyland himself suffering severe injuries. He recovered sufficiently to retire to Bromley, near one of his sons, and only last year managed to pay a last visit to the House of Commons which had dominated his life for so long. He is survived by his two sons.

## PETER DORMER

Peter Dormer, writer on art and design, died of cancer on December 24 aged 47. He was born on January 1, 1949.



FOR nearly twenty years, in a provocative series of exhibitions, lectures and publications, Peter Dormer worked at breaking down the barriers between the various arts, and between the arts and other disciplines. He earned a reputation as an idiosyncratic and combative critic who helped to pioneer public understanding of contemporary crafts. His published studies, including *The New Jewellery* (1985), *The New Ceramics* (1986) and *The Meanings of Modern Design* (1990), became standard works.

Peter Andrew Dormer was born in Fakenham, Norfolk. From 1955 onwards the family home was on a skimpily designed new council estate in Cambridgeshire. Nonetheless, it was at this time that Dormer first recognised the potential of modern design.

He studied painting at Bath Academy of Art and in Manchester, before going on to read philosophy at Bristol University, developing there a passion for logic, aesthetics and the philosophy of science. This was followed by a time working in local government and, if his ability to see both sides of a question hampered decision-making, he honed his already sharp debating skills along with the political awareness which was to characterise his work.

In 1978 Dormer began to write for *Art Monthly* magazine, contributing a regular and typically polemical column. By the early 1980s he decided to turn to writing full-time. He was assistant editor of the Crafts Council maga-

zine *Crafts* from 1981 to 1983 and continued to write for this and for a number of other publications until shortly before his death. He was also involved in the staging of a number of exhibitions including *Fast Forward* in London's Institute of Contemporary Arts in 1985, a landmark exhibition of ceramics.

In recent years Dormer expanded his interests, writing about design for manufacture and, increasingly, about architecture. He also continued to write books, publishing *Design Since 1945* in 1993 and following this a year later with *Art and the Maker*, a typically personal attempt to understand the kinds of knowledge involved in craft processes.

His contribution to an understanding of contemporary crafts was publicly recognised in 1995 when the University of East Anglia appointed him its first Fellow in Critical Appreciation in the Crafts and Design.

He is survived by his wife Jane, whom he married in 1974 and who cared for him devotedly throughout his long fight against cancer. There were no children.

## SIR JOHN MAY



Sir John May, PC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, died on January 15 aged 73. He was born on June 28, 1923.

IN 1989, aged 66, John May took early retirement from the Court of Appeal in order to spend more time with his family at their Dorset home. But release from a heavy workload was not to last long. Within 12 months he had been snapped up by the Home Office to conduct in-depth inquiries into two of the more controversial cases of recent times: those of the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven.

His humanity and integrity were well proven. Ten years earlier, while still a High Court judge, he had been chosen by James Callaghan's Labour Government to lead a far-reaching investigation into the prison service. The result was a seminal report which urged the closure of insanitary old jails and the building of new ones. To help to prevent overcrowding in Britain's prisons, it also called for a reduction in jail sentences for the mentally and socially disabled and for those convicted of only minor offences. With the same end in view, it proposed an extension to the parole and remission system. Finally, May and his committee recommended a new, more rigorous, scheme for prison inspections, to be led by a fiercely independent chief inspector.

With a distinguished legal career also behind him, May was immediately in the frame when, in 1989, the Home Office needed someone to in-

vestigate the saga of the so-called Guildford Four. The Four had been given life sentences in 1975 after the IRA pub bombings in Guildford and Woolwich of the previous year. Their convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1989, however, following a long campaign to prove their innocence.

A complication which delayed May's inquiry was the trial — and subsequent acquittal — of three former policemen, charged with fabricating evidence. As it was, May's final report in 1993 acknowledged that after so many years it was impossible to establish the whole truth behind the story. But he supported the Court of Appeal's decision to quash the convictions and he asked questions of various bodies including the Attorney-General's department and the Home Office.

While he could not identify those responsible, his main concern was to try to ensure that such miscarriages of justice did not recur. The establishment of the Criminal Cases Review Commission was among the indirect results of his inquiry. The Maguire Seven had been convicted in 1976 of allegedly running an IRA "bomb factory" in Kilburn, north London. They had served their sentences, and one of them had died in prison still protesting his innocence.

May, who was involved in both this and the Guildford Four inquiry at the same time, brought out his final report in 1992 and was no less severe in this than he was later to sound in his strictures on the

Guidford case. He was critical of the Maguire trial judge Lord Donaldson of Lynton, of government scientists who had given evidence and of those other judges who had first turned down the subsequent appeals. He also accused the press of creating a climate of guilt before the trial had begun by referring to the house involved as a "bomb factory". May concluded that the seven defendants had been the victims of a "serious miscarriage of justice".

May's own background was somewhat unusual for a judge. Born in Japan as John Douglas May, he was the son of a Shanghai-based British

businessman. He won a scholarship to Clifton College where he became head boy — and was to be told of his father's early death just as he was about to sit his Higher School Certificate (the precursor of A levels). He was later to learn that his mother and aunt had been interned by the Japanese in a concentration camp in the Philippines.

Nevertheless, he won another scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, where he subsequently took a double first in maths and physics before being swept up by the Second World War. Commissioned into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, he specialised in radar and radio and at

one time served as a lieutenant in the cruiser HMS Belfast — now a museum piece in the Pool of London.

On being demobilised, May read for the Bar and was called by the Inner Temple in 1947. He took silk in 1965 at the early age of 42.

As a barrister he first specialised in insurance and personal injury cases, although he later developed his talents to cover a wider field. In the late 1960s he represented the North Thames Gas Board as the inquiry which followed the collapse of Roman Point, the tower block of flats in east London.

He was made Recorder of Maidstone in 1971 and became leader of the South East Circuit the same year. Appointed to the High Court, he was presiding judge of the Midlands and Oxford Circuit, 1973-77, then promoted, being sworn of the Privy Council at the same time, to the Court of Appeal in 1982.

He served at various times as a judge of the Employment Appeals Tribunal, as a member of the Parole Board and, again after he had retired, as the most senior judge represented on the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice of 1991-93. He was treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1993, chaired the University Commissioners, 1989-93, and was president of the Clifton College Council at one time.

Both as a barrister and a judge, May's strengths included his understanding of technology. On one occasion after hearing a technical expert give complex evidence, the judge asked May as counsel if he

would like a short adjournment to digest the details before beginning his cross-examination. May politely declined and proceeded to demolish the witness, displaying a greater knowledge than the other man's of the subject in question. He was also known for his great clarity in court.

Although renowned for his fairness and impartiality, May was not entirely beyond criticism. He once jailed a childless woman for two years after she had stolen someone's baby, and on another occasion he ordered that a schoolgirl should be locked up for the night because she had refused to give evidence against the boy who had been charged with raping her. Such decisions, however, although they provoked great protest, were in a sense consistent with May's character. He had done what he thought was just.

In the Appeal Court in 1988 he raised the damages awarded to a black prisoner following a case of racial discrimination. The man had complained that he had been refused a job in the prison kitchen on account of his colour.

A reserved, rather private man, who was nonetheless a popular and sympathetic head of chambers, May worked prodigiously hard and had few interests outside his family — to whom he was devoted.

John May, who died after a heart attack, is survived by his wife Mary, the daughter of Sir Owen Moreshead, formerly the Queen's Librarian at Windsor, and by their two sons and a daughter.

## Church appointments

The Rev Brenda Campbell, Curate, Rothley, to be Associate Priest, Market Bosworth, W. Shenon, Cadeby, Sutton Cheney and Congerstone (Leicester).

The Rev Noel Carter, Team Rector, Penrith (Carlisle); to be Priest-in-charge, St Breda's, St Aubin, Jersey, Channel Islands (Winchester).

The Rev Alan Comfort, Assistant Curate, Chadwell Heath, St Chad; to be Assistant Curate, Buckhurst Hill, in charge of St Stephen and St Elizabeth (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Couling, Priest-in-charge, Gresham, Master of Gresham Hospital and Rural Dean of Hartlepool; to be Vicar, Gresham, remaining Master of Gresham Hospital and Rural Dean of Hartlepool (Durham).

Canon David Ellis; to be a Canon Emeritus of Carlisle Cathedral.

The Rev Clive Evans, Curate, Barton Seagrave, Warkton; to be Vicar, Long Buckby, Watford (Peterborough).

The Rev Simon Gales, Curate, Houghton (Carlisle); to be Vicar, Lindow (Chester).

The Rev Timothy Gilling, Chaplain, Glenfield and Glenfrith Hospitals (Leicester); to be also an Honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral.

The Rev Robert Harrison, Assistant Curate, St Gabriel's, Cricklewood; to be Vicar, St John, Hillingdon (London).

Canon Colin Johnson; to be a Canon Emeritus of Carlisle Cathedral.

Prebendary Keith Jukes,

Team Rector, Cannock Team Ministry and Vicar, Hatherton (Lichfield); to be Vicar, Selby Abbey (York).

The Rev David King, Chaplain, Andover War Memorial Hospital; to be also Priest-in-charge, Smannell, Wenhams (Winchester).

The Rev Leslie Lawrence, Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Hounslow; to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary the Virgin, Norwood Green (London).

The Rev John Leonard, Vicar, St Theodore of Canterbury, Leicester (Leicester); to be also an Honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral.

The Rev George Liddle, Priest-in-charge, Evenwood; to be Vicar, Evenwood (Durham).

The Rev Michelle Lockhart, part time Assistant Chaplain,

HM Prison, Full Sutton; to be Vicar, York, St Hilda (York).

Canon Peter Mann, Priest-in-charge (Team Rector Designate), St George, W. Luke, Barrow, Rural Dean of Furness, Rural Dean of Barrow Pro-Deanery and Priest-in-charge, St John the Evangelist, Barrow (Carlisle).

The Rev John Mellings, Vicar, Seamer, W. East Ayton; to be Priest-in-charge, Burnby, Lonsdale, Nunburnholme and Warton and Shipton Thorpe, W. Hayton (York).

The Rev Peter Midwood, Vicar, Swaledale and Fellowship of Vocation Chaplain for Richmond archdeaconry; to be also Rural Dean of Richmond (Ripon).

ODEON CINEMA  
THE BLUE LAMP

It is not only foreigners who find the English policeman wonderful, and, in composing this tribute to him, the Ealing Studios are giving conscious expression to a general sentiment.

The tribute is a handsome one, and the only pity is that there is not a little more genuine realism in the phrasing. Of the kind of realism that concentrates on getting details right there is plenty, and it is easy to believe that Scotland Yard co-operated in the making of the film, but when it comes to the drawing of character, the director's hand fails him and he falls back on presenting types and the kind of dialogue that goes with them.

The police station and the routine that goes on there, the infinite care over trivialities, the scientific aids in the prevention and detection of crime, the work of the police cars and of the man on the beat, all these find their true reflection on the screen; when the

## ON THIS DAY

January 20, 1950



Jack Warner, as PC Dixon, your friendly local British bobby, was shot by Dirk Bogarde, as a new type of young delinquent in reckless mood. The film was said to have given a fillip to police recruitment.

camera shifts to the persons of Police-constable Dixon and Police-constable Mitchell there is no longer the certainty of reality accurately observed and accurately presented. There is an indefinable feel of the theatrical backdrop behind their words and actions; Mr Jack Warner and Mr Jimmy Handley do all that can be done, but the sense that the policemen they are acting are not policemen as they really are but policemen as an indulgent tradition has chosen to think they are will not be

banished. The point is important, important in this particular context and as symptomatic of the failure of British films lately to get to sufficiently close and uncompromising grips with their subjects, but for most it will be enough that *The Blue Lamp* tells a story excitingly and gives admirable documentary illustrations of the way the police force goes into action against the criminals.

Mr Dirk Bogarde, as a representative of the new type of criminal, the reckless youth with a kink in his mind, gives an admirable performance, and Miss Peggy Evans, as his adolescent accomplice, is right in her belligerence and hysteria. Towards the end some hard-working, tax-paying members of the audience may feel a little aggrieved by the film's insistence that bookmakers and tic-tac men at greyhound-racing meetings are an example to every one and pillars of society.

Perhaps the film does not really mean it and, anyway, it manages the closing scenes at the White City stadium with immense dramatic verve.



POSTCODE



**TEE-OFF TIME**

**FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**

The search for future champions starts with the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour

PAGE 37

**FEELING THE HEAT**

Michael Henderson sees a day of upsets at the Australian Open tennis

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**SUNDAY BEST**

Giving women's rugby a try

Sport for All

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**FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP**

Rob Andrew offers praise for Wales but little solace for the footsore Irish after the opening skirmishes

**PLUS** the problems of England's selection

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# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 20 1997

## SECOND-HALF GOALS PUT ARSENAL BACK ON THE TABLE



Southall dives valiantly but is powerless to prevent Merson from sliding in Arsenal's third goal in their victory over Everton at Highbury yesterday. Photograph: Stuart Atkins

## Stylish Bergkamp signals red alert

Arsenal 3  
Everton 1

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

RED, or perhaps rouge, is becoming the dominant colour of the FA Cup Premiership. This weekend, after so much inconsistency, Liverpool, Manchester United and now Arsenal have shown their power, their reserves, their goalscoring potential and occupied positions: one, two and three. It begins to look like a clean break from the field.

Arsenal, scoring three times in 13 minutes early in the second half, identical to Liverpool against Aston Villa the previous day, must accept that their win yesterday, as polished as it was, owed plenty to the great good fortune of an Everton goal — a good goal — being unjustly ruled offside before half-time.

It happened after 31 minutes.

Ferguson, fitful though he was, had attempted an overhead kick but, when the ball slithered down off his boot, Barnaby, so quick of mind and body, stole two yards forward and, with his own acrobatics, swivelled to hook the ball cleanly and powerfully into the net. To be fair, it did appear offside to the naked eye. Sky Television, with its cameras and its blue line technology, proved conclusively that Barnaby had come from behind Keown and Bould.

Such decisions turn matches. Everton, on the corresponding day last year, had been the last team to take all the points from Arsenal at Highbury, and once the home side found a higher rhythm, better shooting boots, poor Everton were swept aside. "We never doubted from the bench that it was a goal," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "But that doesn't take away some of the things I saw in the second half. We were comatose for a quarter of an hour; Arsenal didn't need the kind of sloppy defending

from us, they hit their own purple patch and my side, which had been tight for five games since Christmas, was like a colander." A sieve by any other name.

Dennis Bergkamp, in such resplendent form but about to be suspended, unhinged the Everton defence. The first goal, in the 55th minute, stemmed from a dreadful error by Barrett, who gave the ball carelessly to Winterburn. From then, through five pairs of feet, Everton were bemused by the ball-play and when Dixon lobbed it forward over an inert rearguard, Bergkamp, just using the instep of his right boot, let the ball fade elegantly off him into the net.

It was surprising that it took this long to exploit the obvious. In the very first minute Bergkamp appeared a man on turbo cruise control as he outpaced the comparatively ponderous Unsworth. Yet Arsenal, as pleasing as it was to see their self-control, as comprehensively as Merson ran from midfield and Vieira passed, waited too long

to exploit Bergkamp's graceful omnipotence.

Two minutes later, from a similar position but with full-blooded venom, Vieira almost burst the inside of the netting with another volley, this time after the ball had been poorly cleared from a corner.

And the contest was effectively

| TOP OF THE TABLE |    |    |   |   |    |    |     |  |  |  |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|--|--|--|
|                  | P  | W  | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |  |  |  |
| Liverpool        | 24 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 41 | 20 | 46  |  |  |  |
| Manchester Utd.  | 23 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 46 | 26 | 44  |  |  |  |
| Arsenal          | 23 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 42 | 22 | 43  |  |  |  |
| Newcastle        | 23 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 42 | 26 | 39  |  |  |  |
| Wimbledon        | 21 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 34 | 25 | 38  |  |  |  |
| Chelsea          | 23 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 36 | 32 | 36  |  |  |  |
| Aston Villa      | 23 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 31 | 24 | 36  |  |  |  |

over after 68 minutes when Bergkamp, once again too fast of thought and movement, accelerated between Watson and Unsworth. Southall, having made two immaculate, overhead saves from Merson and Bergkamp, this time used his legs to deflect the low

shot from the Dutchman. Unfortunately for the goalkeeper, it rebounded off the shin of Unsworth to Merson who, from three yards, accepted the reward for following up and claimed his 99th goal in an Arsenal shirt.

"We had had problems finding our rhythm in the first half," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "I was a little bit scared that, physically, we were not prepared because of our cup match at Sunderland last Wednesday. So I was surprised how quick we started the second half, how we produced so much collective energy within the team, and when they share this energy with the crowd, they can beat anybody. It was not like that in Monaco, where you have no fans."

In Monaco, they did not have Bergkamp. Here, as for the past two months, he showed the hypnotic control, the agile mind to transcend yet another game. "I think after every match he comes in with a bottle of champagne,"

Wenger said. "He can open a shop now."

But he will drink alone, suspended for an uncharacteristic wild tackle on Paul Bracewell during the Premiership match away to Sunderland. David Platt, whose hamstring snapped in the second half, will also be out for three weeks. Signing Hristo Stoichkov on loan is only a rumour, and Wenger said: "We don't need a left winger. We are looking for a forward, but he is not on our list."

Everton were left reeling on what might have been. They are mid-table, have suffered five consecutive defeats, and struggle without Hinchcliffe, Parkinson, Grant and Ebbrell, all injured. Yet, with their new signing, Claus Thomsen, competently matching up to Vieira, they turned the pitch into a controlled environment for 45 minutes. Everton's intent was as grey as the north London weather, containment was almost an art form to them, and yet not only had they broken for the disallowed

goal, but two minutes after that Barnaby had sweetly released Ferguson, whose first-time shot from the edge of the penalty box was saved thrillingly by Seaman, who dived at full stretch to his right.

In the end, Everton were allowed one flurry, one consolation. It was 12 seconds from time, Arsenal had lost concentration and Adams, in his 500th game for the club, together with Bould and Keown, had relaxed. They simply watched Ferguson soar majestically to head home his seventh goal of the season. A forlorn token for the team wearing blue, but now it really does seem that red is the colour.

ARSENAL (3-0-2): D. Seaman — M. Keown, A. Adams, S. Bould — R. Platt, P. Merson, V. Vieira, D. Platt, S. Hughes, S. Hirst, N. Winterburn — I. Wright, L. Dixon, A. G. D. Bergkamp.

EVERTON (0-0-2): M. Southall — E. Barnett, D. Watson, D. Unsworth — A. Hinchcliffe, R. Grant, M. Branch, G. Stuart, C. Thomsen, G. Speed, T. Phelan — D. Ferguson, N. Barnaby.

Referee: K. Burge

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CRICKET: TOUR FORTUNES TAKE TURN FOR BETTER DESPITE ATHERTON'S CONTINUING POOR RUN

## Condition of Cork casts cloud over Test preparation

FROM ALAN LEE  
IN HAMILTON

DOMINIC CORK, the most influential figure in the belated kick-starting of England's winter tour, was last night strapped in a corset to immobilise a back injury threatening otherwise serene preparations for the first Test against New Zealand.

Cork's participation in that match, indeed in the rest of the tour, was clouded in a cruel uncertainty only a fortnight after he joined the England party on finishing a spell of compassionate leave.

He left the field after bowling nine overs at the start of the Northern Districts' second innings and dismissing Bryan Young, the New Zealand Test opener, cheaply for the second time in the match.

"At the moment it looks relatively serious in that he is struggling to move," Wayne Morton, the team physiotherapist, said. "We threw everything at him when he came off the field. He had manipulation, massage, ice treatment and anti-inflammatory tablets."

"The back is taped in a rigid corset, which makes it look worse, but it may be 48 hours before we know the extent of the damage."

The solemn expression on Morton's face, however, illustrated the natural fears that it might just as easily be something far more serious, something that would jeopardise England's strategy against the New Zealanders at a time when confidence and direction was being restored to the tour.

Cork's priceless ability to bowl outwitting at will has already exposed several senior New Zealand batsmen, reassuring after the problems that have recently beset him. A summer spent struggling for his best form against the handicaps of fatigue and suspect knees was followed by a high-profile split with his wife, Jane, which led to him missing the Zimbabwe leg of the tour.

Cork returned uncomfortably to the team hotel immediately after play last night, missing an engagement at a barbecue thrown by the local cricket association. Morton explained that his condition would be monitored through today before it was decided whether to seek specialist treatment.

Further problems for the party are being caused by a flu virus. Three players — Craig White, Alan Mullally and Nick Knight — have so far been affected although all have been able to play in the present match.



Cork is bowed by the back injury that threatens his future participation in the tour of New Zealand. Photograph: Graham Chadwick / Allsport

## England gathering momentum

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN HAMILTON

HAMILTON (second day of four, England XI won toss; Northern Districts, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 126 runs behind an England XI)

BARELY a fortnight after retreating from Zimbabwe to a chorus of derision that disfigured reputations and questioned futures, England are tackling a different challenge, on a different continent, with the confidence of a remarkably different team. Hard though it may be to comprehend, they are suddenly wearing the look of winners.

The health of the nation's cricket being notoriously fragile, it is too soon to be sanguine, but the portents in New Zealand are so favourable that even the alarming sight of Dominic Cork limping during a final session barren of wickets, could not distort the impression that England are hardening favourites to win the three-Test series that starts in Auckland on Friday.

A weekend of domination between blustery showers left England pressing for a second innings win within a week. The opposition may have

looked feeble for much of the two days at this pleasant city centre ground, but only those who suffer the British affliction of demeaning victories and wallowing in defeats will make much of this. England's purposeful cricket held sway until the spirited resistance of Blair Pocock and Matthew Bell obliterated thoughts of a two-day finish.

But for Michael Atherton's persistent batting doldrums, the shape and readiness of the England team for Auckland is encouraging. Graham Thorpe, a distracted figure in Zimbabwe, has made runs and there have been wickets for all the quicker bowlers. The remaining conundrum, fitness issues apart, is whether to play one or two spinners against a team traditionally uncomfortable when the ball turns.

England's initial instinct is to play two, and I hope they do not resist it, as so often happens when Test day dawns. Philip Tufnell, whose public contributions yesterday were a session of lapping the ground (he is taking his fitness more seriously these days) and a spell on the adjacent bouncy castle, has a psychological grip over certain New Zealand batsmen, an advantage that must not be wasted.

There was no need for either spin bowler as this match began with Northern Districts being dismissed in a session. The batting was inept, especially against the swinging ball, but there was much to commend about the England bowling and particularly the

skill and accuracy of Cork with the new ball.

Atherton failed again on Saturday — out leg-before to a ball that first took the inside edge — and it will take more than his diligence against a bowling machine in the indoor nets to cure a distressing sequence that has brought



Thorpe: best innings

him only 114 runs from ten first-class innings on tour.

Outwardly unconcerned by his personal strife, Atherton has privately been analysing it in his usual thorough way and decided that a greater enemy than any minor technical blips is the tension that grips every struggling batsman, without regard for stature. "I don't feel as if I am doing much wrong but I keep getting out, and the longer that goes on the more tense I become at the start of an innings," he said. "It is a natural reaction and the only cure is to spend time in the middle."

Thorpe's partnership of 125 with John Crawley was a liaison of a man in perfect tune with his game and one who has hardly played a correct note all tour. Thorpe's 71 was his highest score of an unhappy trip, while Crawley's 65 merely maintained his envi-

able first-class average in a winter set finally to establish his Test match credentials.

England's lower middle-order, however, was as unproductive as usual and, from 244 for four, the innings subsided to 294 all out. It really is time that Cork and Gough began to make the runs of which they are capable at this level: instead, White was left stranded as Alex Tate, a persistent rather than impressive medium-pace bowler, completed the best figures of his career.

Tate may never aspire above his present status, but one who should be Daniel Vettori, 17, who was making his first-class debut. He bowled his left-arm spin with a busy, optimistic action, an attractive loop and sufficient control to concern all who faced him. New Zealand are not well endowed with slow bowlers — witness the continued presence of Dipak Patel in their Test side — and Vettori, who toured England with the national youth team last summer, may find himself on route one to higher honours.

Young's demise, to a lifting ball from Cork, raised English hopes of a second surrender by Northern Districts, but these were dashed by the withdrawal of Cork and the stiffened resistance of Pocock, who benefited from a miss by Stewart off Croft and proceeded to a half-century characterised by his fluent on-driving. It left England with work to do on the third day, though this will have troubled them far less, overnight, than the condition of Cork.

### SCOREBOARD FROM HAMILTON

| NORTHERN DISTRICTS: First Innings |     |
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## **TENNIS: SOUTH AFRICAN THRIVES UNDER BURNING SUN AS MORE SEEDS FALL BY THE WAYSIDE AT AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

□ Oscar de la Hoya, of the United States, retained his World Boxing Council super-lightweight title, beating Miguel Angel Gonzalez, of Mexico, on points in Las Vegas.



FOOTBALL

# Unfamiliar names help reinvigorate Liverpool

Liverpool ..... 3  
Aston Villa ..... 0

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE final analysis, the next championship of England will be determined by the depth of club resources, the ability to recruit and to reorganise in a crisis. Liverpool remain tenuously on top of the FA Carling Premiership and they put a distance of ten points between themselves and Aston Villa on Saturday. Yet the first of their goals was headed in by an apprentice making his full debut, and the Liverpool defence was shored up by a Norwegian whose work permit came through less than 24 hours before kick-off.

"Our heads went down in the second half," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said. "We were miles behind them, apart from the first ten minutes. We weren't balanced to stop them playing in the middle of the park."

Balance? The English game has it all wrong. This deep midwinter, when we have undersoil heating to make the Premiership pitches playable, we have nothing commensurate to soothe the over-stressed limbs of players, too many of whom have had no respite in a year because of the European championship.

Moreover, the fixture computer has virtually sabotaged Villa. In a month that began four days before Christmas they have had seven games and have played every one of the six teams above them, plus

an away game at Notts County in the FA Cup. If beating Wimbledon, drawing against Manchester United, Arsenal and Newcastle, losing to Chelsea and now Liverpool, constitutes Villa's litmus test, it hides the facts of injuries and suspensions that distort form.

Liverpool, for example, began Saturday without seven first-team individuals because of suspensions, illness, and injury.

Villa had five senior players out, but when their manager talks of balance, he means that the loss of Fernando Nelson, in the right wing-back position, from which they have already lost Charles, meant using Riccardo Scimeca in a position he has never previously played.

Unsurprisingly, with Bjornebye, Liverpool's other recruit from Rosenborg, in Norway, in the form of his life, the breakthrough, when it came, was engineered down that flank.

These are strange times indeed at Anfield. Time was when the Kopites could reel off the names of their championship side, time when consistency of selection meant that just 14 players were involved in a championship campaign.

Liverpool have already had to field 21 players this season, stretching them across four competitions and, frankly, I cannot recall Liverpool winning only two home league games out of seven, as they had before Saturday. Nor throwing into the fray players who had barely trained with the first team.

Praise be, then, to Jamie



McManaman, left, Collymore and Redknapp finger Carragher who, left unmarked at a corner, marked his debut with the opening goal

Carragher. Born in Bootle, he is, Roy Evans, the manager, thinks, best suited to a central defensive role. But once Bjorne-Tore Kavarnne was made eligible, the manager opted to play the pair of them. Kavarnne, 24, a solid right back, dealt manfully with the elusive and creative Yorke, albeit with some guidance from Liverpool's stand-in captain, Mark Wright.

Carragher began over tenacious, being booked for a wild hack at Townsend 20 seconds after the first whistle. But he settled into what Evans described as "a very steady performance". At 18, he lacks the fear that has permeated recent Liverpool displays, he

has a neat and tidy appreciation of the club's passing game. Nevertheless, though Liverpool kept the ball for much of the time, Yorke had three chances to put Villa clear in the first half.

Denied once by the toe-end of James's boot, Yorke should have scored from three and eight yards. When he did not, and when Bosnich made a superlative reaction save to parry a volley from McAteer, we were goalless.

That is not to imply this game was ever goalless. McManaman, trying to be the rhythm master in place of the injured Barnes, wearing bicycle shorts because he is prone to hamstring strain, was tire-

less. Even in this period of struggle, McManaman plays with joy in the game. He will take the ball audaciously up to an opponent, shake his hips, feign to the right and slip even an experienced campaigner such as Townsend by dodging to the left.

Marvellous stuff. And marvellous, too, was the fiftieth minute for Carragher. Imagine this is your first Liverpool game and you have made the most timely run to a corner from Bjornebye right in front of The Kop. The Villa defenders all eyes on Mark Wright, have left you free... and even as your header shoots down into the goal, the crowd are singing your name.

In the space of 13 minutes it was all over. McManaman, with an astonishing pass, struck the opposite way he was moving, released Bjornebye down the left once more. The Norwegian's pass into the goalmouth was precise. Collymore, though struggling for the rhythm of the game, was suddenly irreplaceable as he got between Southgate and Tyler to score with a glancing header.

Then, when Redknapp tried, as he had been doing all afternoon, to score from a distance, Bosnich failed to hold his low shot at the near post and Fowler was upon him, poaching his first goal in five games, during which his

persistent ankle injury has been all too obvious. Brian Little is too obtuse a competitor to surrender Villa's title aspiration in January, though realistically he concedes that being ten points adrift of Liverpool is not ideal. And Evans? "It is nice to stay top, for once, by our own efforts. But who knows where this tide is going to finish up?"

Who has the depth of character, of desire, of playing resources to last the pace? LIVERPOOL (3-0-2): D. James — BT. Kavanne, M. Wright, D. James — J. McAteer, J. Redknapp, J. Carragher, S. Collymore (sub: S. Bjornebye), R. Fowler, S. Collymore (sub: M. Kennedy, 74min).

ASTON VILLA (0-0-1-2): M. Bosnich — U. Ekeghi, S. Southgate, C. Tyler — R. Scimeca, A. Townsend, T. Johnson, A. Wright — S. Curran — S. Maiselet, D. Yorke. Referee: R. Oliver.

## Blackburn draw strength from Parkes's resolve

Sunderland ..... 0  
Blackburn Rovers ..... 0

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS often said that a goalless scoreline does not tell the whole story. It did here. It was the story of a stalling, frustrating, numbing contest. A classic 0-0 — awful.

Blackburn Rovers played badly, creating only one chance but escaping with a valuable point — clearly a blueprint for survival. Sunderland, on the other hand, produced most of the attacking fare on offer, but wasted it woefully. They have a healthy amount of points already, and a passion to match, but a continuing failure in front of goal has cost them dear already and will continue to do so.

On the evidence, one would back Rovers to finish ahead of Sunderland, and that is a testament to the remarkable

transformation brought about by Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager. At the start of the season his team threw away points with the abandon of the tatty mascot who dispensed sweets to the crowd at Roker Park. Now, they do not even give away goals.

It was Rovers' sixth consecutive clean sheet, a rather encouraging habit. If it were

Full results and league tables .... Page 30

not for the barren Harford months, Blackburn might be occupying the top end of the table. The players recognise their debt to Parkes, the man responsible. "We probably would have lost that game earlier in the season, but Tony has introduced a spirit and discipline," Colin Hendry, the defender, said after another imposing performance.

Parkes flooded the midfield to combat Sunderland's fervour and, after a testing first half, his tactics worked to perfection. Such an approach may seem limited but, at the bottom, every point counts.

Sunderland did have their chances in the opening period. Orchestrated by the returning Paul Bracewell — a crucial figure — Smith, Rae and Mullin all squandered chances.

In his own way, Peter Reid has performed an equally miraculous transformation at Sunderland. Under intimidating constraints, he has created a side that is difficult to beat. He knows, though, that his side must make the most of the opportunity their passion creates.

SUNDERLAND (1-0-1-1): L. Perez — G. Hoad, R. O'Grady, S. Allen — D. Hoad — D. Kelly, P. Bracewell, D. Williams, A. Rae, M. Smith — J. Mullin. BLACKBURN ROVERS (0-0-1-2): T. Flowers — J. Kinnear, H. Burg, C. Hendry, G. Le Seau — S. Gallacher, T. Sherwood, G. Forster, L. Bennett, J. Wright — C. Suratt. Referee: P. Hooper.

## Wise words prove perfect reply

Chelsea ..... 3  
Derby County ..... 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

THE trial of strength between Ruud Gullit and Gianluca Vialli continues. The old Sampdoria team-mates who are now, respectively, player-manager and star striker at Chelsea, will presumably pursue their version of an arm-wrestling match until either Vialli regains his place in the Chelsea team or moves elsewhere. Once more he did not get off the substitutes' bench against Derby County, and he can scarcely have been encouraged by Gullit's unexpected acquaintance with the words of President Harry S. Truman: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Certainly Vialli is a popular figure with the squad. Dennis Wise revealed a slogan on his T-shirt: "Cheer Up Luca, We Love You."

"It's a matter of how the team responds to the last couple of days," Gullit said enigmatically. "I don't have to do anything, so you can see how the team spirit is. Everybody has to see what the new philosophy is and I think this message says everything. It's a difficult situation for Gianluca, but you have to cheer up because it's a team thing."

Have to? It is hard to see a

player as proud as Vialli cheering up while he remains on the bench, however much his colleagues love him.

Against Derby he was not needed, largely because Jim Smith's team decided to live dangerously, refusing to assign the coruscating Gianfranco Zola a man-marker. This, Smith said, was something that he had thought about but, since the bad weather largely prevented his team from training, he had not changed his tactics.

So Zola, who had been shackled in recent away games by Leeds United, Sunderland and Nottingham Forest, had the freedom of the pitch and used it to exquisite good purpose.

Once he is in possession, especially when racing in from the right, there is scarcely any way to stop him. As



Zola: unstoppable

early as the tenth minute Zola, exchanging passes with the impressive Di Matteo, put in a sharp, low centre from the right. Hoults, the Derby goalkeeper, could only block it. Petrescu, always dangerous on the overlap, drove in a shot, but Hoults did manage to hold that.

With Derby ahead after 26 minutes, Zola put Petrescu through for a cross-shot that flew narrowly wide. Chelsea equalised on 38 minutes when Mark Hughes, who works so well with Zola, when the Italian is given space, sent the little Sardinian away on the right once again. Zola's cross-shot beat Hoults, came back from the post and Wise scored.

Zola was also involved in the disputed goal with which Chelsea went ahead just before the interval. This time he sent in a cross from the left and Carbon, clumsily challenging Hughes, knocked him over. Hughes made the most of it. Leboeuf scored from the penalty.

The only disappointment in Zola's effervescent display was when a free kick untypicaly sailed past the target. Then he and Di Matteo — but not Vialli — were off to Palermo to play for Italy against Northern Ireland on Wednesday.

Derby, who notably failed to exploit Sturridge's dynamic pace, surprisingly went ahead when the elegant, inventive

Croat, Asanovic, struck a left-footed free kick from some 35 yards with such guile that the hapless Hitchcock was beaten. A marvellous shot, but a fallible piece of goalkeeping.

Derby were not helped when Dailly was sent off after 34 minutes. Smith thought that was absurd, that Dailly's first yellow card was unmerited, but "when I saw the referee's name, I expected it." Nor did Smith think the penalty was valid.

Particularly pleasing for Chelsea was the debut in the midfield of another Hughes, the 20-year-old, Paul. He has been with Chelsea since the age of 11, but persistent injuries — curbed, at last, by a specialist in Naples — had kept him out until now.

He looked supremely confident and had hardly got on the field when he was forcing a save from Hoults, whom he eventually beat in the 86th minute after an inspired double-exchange with the other Hughes. "You play with such good players," he said modestly. "It's a lot easier. They trust me, so they give me the ball; it's all you can ask for."

He does not ask to be loved, but then at least he is playing.

Chelsea (3-0-2): K. Hitchcock — F. Sturridge, L. Leboeuf, A. Wright — D. Petrescu, R. Di Matteo, C. Bailey (sub: E. Johnson, 49 — G. Zola, M. Hughes). DERBY COUNTY (0-0-2-1): R. Hoults — G. Carbon (sub: C. Dailly, 63), P. McCosh — J. Leary, D. Forster, Asanovic, L. Canavan, C. Pearce, A. Ward (sub: R. Williams, 65), D. Sturridge. Referee: G. Poll.

## Francis left cursing Spurs' luck as Vega sees red

Nottingham Forest ..... 2  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's crumbling season took on the pallor of terminal decline at the City Ground yesterday. They relinquished a 1-0 half-time lead, lost their fourth successive match, and also had Ramon Vega, the Switzerland centre back, sent off. Just when Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, must have thought his season could get no worse, it did.

Already out of contention in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup, Tottenham have only a Uefa Cup place to play for. Yet that, too, appears to be fast diminishing, even if their earnest efforts against Nottingham Forest deserved more. Fortune has deserted them.

For Forest, who escaped from the bottom three of the Premiership for the first time in three months, the balance has shifted dramatically since Stuart Pearce assumed his caretaker-player-manager's role shortly before Christmas. In his seven matches in charge, Forest have won five times. Frank Clark, his predecessor, had lost all power of motivation, yet Pearce provides it in abundance.

"Stuart told the lads not to get too excited," Pete Edwards, Forest's fitness trainer and designated post-match spokesman, said. "The commitment was excellent and everyone battled well, but we've got to do that for seven or eight more games before we can start to see daylight."

Tottenham took the lead after only 75 seconds. Nielsen's long throw evaded Calderwood, Campbell and the Forest defence, leaving Sinton to drive a crisp, low shot past Crossley. Tottenham absorbed Forest's steady pressure comfortably and Francis would have enjoyed the interval break but for Vega's dismissal in the 44th minute.

He had already been booked, for not retreating ten yards after he had conceded a free kick, when he tangled with Cooper, off the ball. Cooper fell, apparently having been struck in the face, and Vega was shown the red card by Jeff Winter, the referee. Cooper was also cautioned.

"I haven't yet seen the incident on video," Francis said. "If it was a punch, I will be annoyed about it. We can ill afford to be without any more players." Vega now faces a three-match suspension, with Calderwood also likely to be banned for two games after passing 21 disciplinary points.

Forest equalised in the first minute of the second half, when Roy diverted in Lytle's cross. He pounced again in the 62nd minute when Winter tried to play an advantage after Gennmill's blatant foul on Sinton, but Forest immediately regained possession.

Bart-Williams drew a fine save from Walker and Roy tapped in the rebound. Gennmill was, indeed, booked before the restart. "If that was a fair advantage, I'm a Chinaman," Francis said. "What can you do when things like that happen? It really would be nice just to have a little bit of luck for a change."

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (1-0-2): M. Crossley — D. Lytle, C. Cooper, S. Christie, S. Pearce — D. Phillips (sub: S. Gennmill, 60min), A. Hoad, C. Bart-Williams, I. Wain — B. Roy (sub: J. Lee, 86), N. Cough. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (0-1-2): R. Nielsen — J. Sinton, S. Calderwood, S. Campbell — D. Howells (sub: S. Nethercott, 86), R. Young, A. Sinton (sub: R. Forster, 65), J. Edwards — R. Allen (sub: C. Wilson, 45), S. Nielsen. Referee: J. Winter.

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## Golden moment from Giggs lifts United

Coventry City ..... 0  
Manchester United ..... 2

By ANDREW LONGMORE

THE announcement of Alex Ferguson's retirement passed largely unnoticed last week in the general brouhaha over the return of the prodigal Kenny Dalglish but, far more than depriving Tyneside of the tide, it marked the triumph of the true professional over the gifted amateur.

While Kevin Keegan walked away from Newcastle United after five years, Ferguson will have completed 25 in management, the last 13 at Old Trafford, by the time he shuffles upstairs to push some paper in 1999. There is no reason to believe that the pressure will have got to him before then. Ferguson does not, or cannot, give in as easily as Keegan or, some might say, Dalglish.

"Football is like a drug," he said, after his side had woken from their slumbers just long

enough to subdue a workmanlike Coventry City. "You want to stay in the game because you miss it so much." Ferguson was talking of Gordon Strachan at the time and his surprise that his former United player had gone into management. But he was also talking about himself and about the depth of his commitment to the game. Ferguson could no more walk away from football than he could accept defeat with a smile.

Mind you, it helps if your side tends to win and United have mastered that precious art. It is partly luck — both managers conceded Coventry should have had a penalty in the opening minutes of the second half, when Huckerby was manhandled by Neville — but it is mostly motivation: a priceless ability to coax your best players into life at different, and roughly consecutive, points in the season.

Ferguson has the touch of a racehorse trainer in sensing which of his players is about to come into form, at somehow

persuading each of them in turn that their team needs them. Now, his only failure so far has been Andy Cole. Otherwise, the muse has passed with uncanny regularity from Giggs to Beckham, to Cantona and back again.

Cantona inspired United to the championship last season. When his form has slipped this season, Beckham has stepped up to score important goals. Beckham was absent



Poborsky: worked hard.

with a sore ankle at Highfield Road, so Giggs scored a beauty with his right foot. Solskjaer has taken up the golden thread at times and so, in a different way, Keane. The knack is for the team to sense who is "in-the-zone" — as American tennis players say, and to give them the ball.

United beat Coventry with something to spare, but the most heartening pointer for Ferguson was the resurgent form of Karel Poborsky. The Czech was signed as a player who could win matches when all around were floundering, a golden thread player. He has not shown much of that flair so far. Nor did he on Saturday, but his workrate was high, his running strong and his touch on the right flank sound — material enough for Ferguson to polish his growing confidence in training this week.

"I was particularly pleased for him because he has needed a little break," Ferguson said. "He's one of the best players we have at the club." Expect a

flashy goal or two in the next few weeks.

Coventry lost because they had no golden thread players: they only had 11 fit players. They played patience, keeping men behind the ball and not giving United the chance to counter-attack at speed. It was not enthralling.

Scholes hit the angle of post and crossbar with a cracking volley in the first half. Giggs scored midway through the second with a delicately curled shot after a biting tackle to win a 50-50 ball from Telfer, and Solskjaer made sure with a right-foot shot ten minutes from time. "We know we're not as good as them," Strachan said. Full marks for honesty. He might be ready for Old Trafford in three years' time.

COVENTRY CITY (0-0-2): S. Ogilvie — R. Shaw, B. Brown, P. Williams — P. Teller, E. Shaw (sub: M. Hall, 60min), S. McGlelland, R. Richardson, J. Salter, — D. Whelan, N. Whelan. MANCHESTER UNITED (4-0-2): P. Scholes — C. Keane, G. P. P. Nielsen, R. Johnson (sub: C. Cooper, 60), D. Hoad — K. E. Cantona, C. G. Solskjaer. Referee: S. Dunn.























Jenkins passes 500 points as disappointing Scotland are sunk in five-minute burst of scoring

# Wales breathe fire into hopes of modern revival

Scotland.....19  
Wales.....34

BY GERALD DAVIES

IF THIS victory, Wales' first at Murrayfield since 1985, is anything to go by, then it may be said that the dragon is breathing again. There was nothing restrained about Wales' mood, nor any sense of uncertainty about their five nations' championship campaign opened on Saturday.

There has been resolve in the past, but it was weighed down by the burden of too much expectation; there was a will to win, but it lacked conviction. They were made to look forlorn. Yet on this occasion, from the first scrum, when Scott Quinnett picked up quickly and charged into the heart of the Scotland defence, there was an earnestness and urgency about Wales that, conspicuously, never left them.

With their understudies, Emerging Wales, having lost embarrassingly by more than 50 points the night before, it was a matter not of timidly wanting to win but, ruthlessly, a case of having to. Nevertheless, while they were resolute of purpose, Wales' success also had touches of finesse and joyful attack. They scored four tries, with each in turn, although initiated differently, involving some thrilling running.

For a change, too, as Jonathan Humphreys, the captain, admitted afterwards, Lady Luck smiled upon them. He did not apologise for that. Last year, he reminded us, the capricious lady had turned her back upon the Welsh and they lost matches that they might so easily have won had she not cast her gifts elsewhere.

In particular, Humphreys was referring to the blistering five-minute period between the eleventh and sixteenth minutes of the second half when Wales scored the three tries that effectively put them beyond the reach of Scotland. The prologue to two of these saw the ball's deflection off its bounce away in Wales' favour.

They had begun forcefully, but instead of entering the interval period level at 10-10, Chalmers dropped a goal before the break and the Scots led 13-10. Shepherd's penalty kick then extended the lead immediately after the restart.

This was much against the run of play. Territorially, at least, Wales had the better of the exchanges. Arwel Thomas, as inventive on this occasion as he had been floundering in Dublin last season, split the defence with a swiftly deceptive run. From the ensuing position, Gibbs, Charvis, Evans and Gareth Thomas



CHAMPIONSHIP

paved the way for a beautifully constructed try for Jenkins. From the restart, Howley's high up-and-under caused confusion in the Scotland defence. Arwel Thomas got a foot to the loose ball. Logan's deflection did not find his support and the Welsh stand-off half gratefully collected the ball and sprinted away, chased by Hastings, for his try. Moments later, Jenkins' careful but, for Scotland, cruel chip was haplessly misjudged by Shepherd and the ball was snatched out of the air by Evans, who sprinted clear for his 31st try for his country, but his first at Murrayfield. Scotland were nonplussed by this barrage of points.

In truth, the home team rarely played with their usual verve. Apart from Townsend, who, even when back-peddalling, still managed to find holes on a couple of occasions in a grimly unyielding Welsh defence, Scotland were subdued and only modestly cohesive. Rarely can a Welsh back row have held such an advantage over their Scottish counterparts. Even when Scotland managed to steal Wales' ball

in the loose phases, the threats posed by Wallace, Walton and Wainwright were indecisive and did not go far.

Wales' hard core was provided by the players returned from rugby league. Scott Quinnett was a powerful presence at No 8 and Bateman and Gibbs provided a superlative pairing in midfield, which will no doubt advance their claims for selection for the British Isles' tour of South Africa.

Shepherd and Jenkins had scored the first points in the first half with a penalty each and then converted the brilliant tries that followed, both of which stemmed from clever midfield play. Townsend's fingertip pass gave Hastings his try and Bateman, on a superb, curving run, created the space for Gibbs and Quinnett to combine for the No 8's try.

In converting all the tries, scoring one himself and adding a further penalty towards the end, after Shepherd had kicked his total of points for his country to 517.

The exhilaration that followed in the immediate aftermath of this victory was moderated by a single but ultimately critical thought for Wales. Does this victory truly mark a change in Welsh fortunes? Can we expect more to come by the season's end? Or is it one of those mornings of early promise that fade by late afternoon? With the difficult away match over, Wales have two home games for the triple crown. Anticipation is high.

**SCORES:** Scotland: Try: Hastings Conversion: Shepherd Penalty goals: Shepherd (3) Off trapped goal: Chalmers. Wales: Tries: S Quinnett, Jenkins, A Thomas, Evans. Conversions: Jenkins (4) Penalty goals: Jenkins (2).  
**SCOTLAND:** R Shepherd (Melrose), A Stanger (Hawick), S Hastings (Watson), G Townsend (Glasgow), K Logan (Glasgow), C Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Newcastle), D Wilson (Edin), G Ellis (Glasgow), M Stewart (Northampton), P Walton (Newcastle), G Watt (Newcastle), A Reid (Warrack), R Wainwright (Warrack), captain Reed replaced by S Munro (Glasgow High Kelso), S Smith (Glasgow High Kelso), replaced by D Stark (Melrose, 75).  
**WALES:** N Jenkins (Pontypridd), I Evans (Llanelli), A Bateman (Richmond), S Gibbs (Swansea), G Thomas (Bristol), A Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff), C Loader (Swansea), J Humphreys (Cardiff), captain, D Young (Cardiff), S Williams (Neath), G Unwin (Rugby), M Rowley (Pontypridd), C Davies (Swansea), S Quinnett (Richmond), Rowley replaced by C Quinnett (Richmond), S Jones replaced by G Jones (Cardiff, 75), Gibbs replaced by J Davies (Cardiff, 75).  
Referee: H A Smith (Ireland)



Scott Quinnett fends off Logan as Wales go on the offensive once again at Murrayfield on Saturday. Photograph: David Rogers / Allsport

## Prodigals in league lay path to victory

Mark Souster considers the impact that the players who have returned to their union roots had on the Murrayfield match

What delicious irony. The first fully professional rugby union championship and all the talk before and after Wales's comprehensive dismantling of Scotland was of the men who had been in a league of their own: the prodigal sons who had broken hearts in the valleys by joining their friends in the North.

The two Scotts — Quinnett and Gibbs — the latter's colleague in the centre, Allan Bateman, and David Young, the prop, players who had opted to take the money and run, had held centre stage in the build-up to this match, and did so, too, when it mattered.

Gibbs and Bateman were the rocks upon which Scotland's hopes foundered. Only once were they undone, by Gregor Townsend's brilliant intuition. Otherwise they hit and hit hard, as Craig Chal-

mers discovered early on when he bounced off Gibbs' barrel chest.

Gibbs is literally immense, as potent in attack as in defence, a pocket battleship who poured through the middle, taking defenders in numbers with him when he went, but who was still able to offload a telling pass. He was probably not fully fit on Saturday, but he was still too strong, too determined and too rugby wise for Scotland.

He is a more mature individual for his three years away, one who better understands his responsibilities. Where once taxi drivers incurred his wrath, now it is the opposition. Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, talked of the extra edge, the extra dimension, the ring of

steel that Gibbs and his colleagues had brought back with them.

"The rugby league boys bring a great mental attitude to the job," Humphreys said. "It is a long time since I have looked around the Welsh dressing-room and seen everyone so confident. Some of Scott Gibbs's hits were phenomenal. There is a more mature outlook in the squad, as well as belief and determination."

When Bateman, who played for Maesteg and Neath in chapter one of his union career, converted to league, the sages reckoned that he would be the biggest loss of all to Wales. His return to union with Richmond was low-key, but, in Wales's pre-Christmas internationals and

for the Barbarians, he showed that the footballer's brain was still intact.

He is deceptively quick, as he demonstrated when making the initial break outside Scott Hastings in a move that led to Wales's first try, by Scott Quinnett — a try fashioned and executed in the hot-house of rugby league, where players learn to stay on their feet. Gibbs provided the link and the marauding Quinnett surged like a bull towards the try line, swatting defenders out of his path with nonchalant ease.

After feeling his way back early on, Quinnett became an irresistible force from No 8, his runs causing havoc in the increasingly fractured Scotland defence.

Scotland may point to the

luck of the bounce as a contributory factor in their downfall during those crucial five minutes in the third quarter, but you make your own luck to a large extent, and one felt that, for all their earlier endeavours, Scotland would have eventually been ground down even without those unkind twists of fate that provided tries for Arwel Thomas and Ieuan Evans.

Then there was Neil Jenkins, one of only a handful of players to pass the landmark of 500 points in international rugby. There are plenty more left in his tank.

So Wales are up and running. After years of false dawns and false promises, they showed that they have the potential to be a force. Perhaps Scotland, for whom Chalmers was making his fiftieth appearance, will take a leaf out of their book. Come in Alan Tait, your time has arrived.

## Ireland retain competitive instincts

Ireland.....15  
France.....32

FROM DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN DUBLIN

HOW much encouragement are Ireland entitled to draw from an afternoon when France scored more points than they have managed at Lansdowne Road before? How many times have Ireland reviewed a match in which they can contrive only penalty goals against opponents for whom the try-count offers far more significance?

The harshest critic will say that all Ireland did in their opening match of the five nations' championship on Saturday was to return to where they have been so frequently before: a team capable of playing for 60 minutes before crumbling, a team bereft of a cutting edge and now, moreover, a team short of its captain for, at least, their next encounter, on February 1.

That, as Ireland themselves would say, depends on where you are coming from. "Two weeks ago we were dead as dead could be," Keith Wood, the injured captain, said, referring to the defeat by Italy. "We have had only a week in which we have tried to change a lot."

He had a point. Any team throwing key selection issues into the air and adding a new coach for good measure will take time to settle. Yet, when you are down and out, nobody loves you.

One moment just before the interval crystallised the "luck" of the Irish. They put together a sequence of play unrivalled in the match, moving the ball sensibly, smashing into rucks and generally setting France back on their heels, yet all the while Wood had been left prone with a dislocated shoulder joint which will need two to six weeks' rest and may take him out of the entire championship.

What this Irish Permanent international did offer was genuine competition, and that is as important for Ireland

now as anything else. They need the confidence of knowing that they are not merely makeweights; that players such as Eric Miller, Jeremy Davidson and David Corkery are contenders for the British Isles team — all forwards, it will be noted, and that is where the Ireland plan of campaign falls down.

Their pack played so strongly for an hour that even their midfield, which is far too sluggish in moving the ball, was able to outflank France a couple of times. With France intent on attacking on the short side, and then limited by a leg injury to Alain Penaud, the contrast was not marked until Stéphane Glas, suddenly released in the final quarter, began to treat the middle of Lansdowne Road as his own private domain.

From the surprised delight of a 15-12 lead with 20 minutes remaining, Ireland found themselves trailing once more

to David Venditti's second try and began to attempt unheeded moves, ball in hand, that left them horribly exposed.

"We lost our shape and some players made decisions which, upon reflection, they

France officials have been asked to view an incident in which Allan Clarke, the hooker, was kicked in the face, apparently by Franck Tournaire, the France prop. Ireland officials "have handed the matter over to the French," a statement said.

may think were not wise," Brian Ashton, the coaching adviser, said.

Ashton would probably give his eye teeth for his native England's problems at centre. Ireland have nobody in midfield with quick hands, nor with the stabbing acceleration

of Glas or Thomas Castaignède.

It may be that they were let off to some degree. France were not entirely confident of the match fitness of Castaignède, Ntamack or Sadourny and therefore chose to play the game nearer their powerful forwards.

The dominant figure was Fabien Pelous, the young Dax No 8 who moved to lock when Miorin was replaced by Castel. He dominated France's share of the lineout and is becoming increasingly formidable about the field, as one of two yellow cards suggests.

The other went to Merle, who took exception to Wood hurrying over the top of a ruck into his chest like a missile. To be fair to Merle, Wood's capacity for suicidal charges verges on the dangerous and may well cost him a Lions place — either through injury or because of his propensity to concede penalties.

On any other day Venditti's three tries would be cause for substantial celebration, save that he had only to finish what others had done, much of it from possession passed over by Ireland.

Gallhié's was the first of four tries, the referee overlooking a fumble as the France forwards powered their way from a lineout to leave the scrum half with an inviting hole. His pass also gave Venditti a simple try, but all the while Elwood was accepting penalty chances from André Watson, the South African referee, who had watched France's propensity for offside in the A international 24 hours earlier and was in no mind to see them repeat it under his charge.

An interval score of 12-12 was improved further by Elwood, but, sadly for Ireland, it was from a penalty given awarded during the one clear-cut chance that they had of scoring a try. The forwards came within a metre, but all the backs could not capitalise, and the France forwards shook themselves and carried the match to Ireland.

The running of the tight forwards reduced Ireland to grim defence. Venditti crossed again and Castaignède, who did much of the limping Penaud's work in defence, added two penalty goals. That Sadourny sent Venditti over again deep into added time was hard for Ireland, but not, at that stage, unexpected.

**SCORES:** Ireland: Penalty goals: Elwood (2), Francis, Trier, Venditti (3). Gallhié Conversion: Castaignède (2).  
**IRELAND:** G M P O'Shea (London Irish), J A Topley (Bath), J C Ball (Northampton), M J Field (Bristol), D J O'Leary (Cardiff), E P Elwood (Lansdowne), N A Hogan (Lansdowne College), N J Poppell (Newcastle), K G M Wood (Harlequins, captain), P S Wallace (Swansea), D S Corkery (Bristol), P S Jones (Swansea), J W Davidson (London Irish), W D McBride (Melrose), E R P Miller (Leicester). Field replaced by K P McCullin (Lansdowne, 15-22, 47min); Wood replaced by A T H Clarke (Northampton, 30); Poppell replaced by P Flavin (Blackrock College, 65).  
**FRANCE:** J L Sadourny (Colomiers), E Ntamack (Toulon), S Glas (Bordeaux), T Castaignède (Toulon), D Venditti (Bordeaux), A Penaud (Bordeaux), F Gallhié (Colomiers), C Gollins (Toulon), M Delmas (Agen), F Tournaire (Bordeaux), A Benayss (Agen, captain), O Merle (Montpellier), N Miorin (Toulon), P Benetton (Agen), F Pelous (Dax), J L Jordana (Toulon), temporary replacement for Callens (Dax-33).  
Referee: A Watson (South Africa)

## Ashton's pure romantics eventually lose the plot

SIMON BARNES



At Lansdowne Road

Ireland has called on an Englishman before when in search of sporting viability. Brian Ashton, a Lancastrian and the bizarrely-titled "coaching adviser" to the Ireland rugby union team, has a hard act to follow.

The story of the Ireland football team under Jack Charlton is a strange one, a romantic tale in which Charlton, with all his beloved eccentricities, became an honorary leprechaun and took his team to the quarter-finals of the World Cup, a match against Italy in Rome.

We are left with the pleasant myth that Charlton lifted the team to dizzy heights by a mixture of charm, Irish luck and romantic aspiration. It is quite a nice story, but the truth is the complete opposite.

I quoted Don Revie, the former England manager, only last week, but I must serve up the same line again: "As soon as it dawned on me that we were short of players who combined skill and commitment, I should have forgotten all about trying to play more controlled, attractive football, and settled for a real bastard of a team."

I do not think that Charlton nurses vain regrets on this score, and, on the evidence of Ireland's thundering performance against France on Saturday, I don't think Ashton will, either. Charlton's Ireland were awful to watch without partisan spectacles: the *Gazzetta dello Sport* headlined their report of the Ireland v England game of the 1990 World Cup: "Niente calcio, siamo Britannici" — no football please, we're British. They were doubly awful to play against.

The best teams in the world learnt to dread playing Ireland. They became the Wimbledon of international football.

Charlton's achievement was to change the perspective of Irish footballers. They no longer thought: "Well, we are lucky to be here among the great football nations." They thought: "We have a right to

be here and to get stuck in."

Many underdog teams at all levels of sport go into a big match seeking to flatter. They attempt to match the skills of the sophisticates. They know they will lose, but that is all right, for they have earned the right to play on the big stage. As a battle-plan, it is sycophantic and self-defeating.

Underdogs who seek not self-respect, but victory, take a different road. They seek a strategy that will rattle the overdogs, attack their complacency. It has been the tradition of Irish teams in all sports, especially rugby union, to play with "passion", that is to say, a licence to charge about like headless chickens.

On Saturday, that passion was canalised into commitment. Ireland set out to implement a grinding, horrible, brutal game-plan. France, rattled and jolted, committed all kinds of foolish offences. They were constantly penalised. They also lost possession in the tackle again and again. The Irish players were very fierce. They were also always in the right place for the hammering and grinding.

"One for the purists," a colleague told me at half-time, with solemn irony. But, in a way, it was pure. I fancy it must have been like the old boys' match in *Stalky & Co.*

"The technique of that match belongs to a bygone age. Scrimmages were tight and enduring; hacking was direct and to the purpose; and round the scrimmage stood the school, crying, 'Put your heads down and shove! Towards the end everybody lost all sense of decency, and mothers of day-boys too close to the touchline heard language not included in the rules.'"

It was a glorious hour, and Ireland won it 15-12, all penalties from the boot of Eric Elwood. It was an hour in which Ireland believed they had a right to play a low, mean and utterly purposeful game. "Passion will only take you through the first 15 minutes," Ashton said afterwards. "Every side plays with passion. The idea is to translate this into intensity — and to concentrate for 80 minutes."

The match went wrong for Ireland three times. The first was when France scored their second try. I even wrote "all over" in my notebook. But it wasn't. Then the captain and talisman, Keith Wood, went off with a dislocated shoulder, and I thought that would be the end. But it was not.

Overcoming two great reverses was magnificent. It was the third that did for them. France's third try was the end. There is a stupid and altogether amateurish convention in rugby union that states that any side, once losing, is entitled to play like a set of bloody fools. It is called "playing catch-up", and it always leads to an exaggerated margin of defeat. Ireland, jettisoning their game-plan and reverting to "romantic" and "passionate" type, allowed the French to open up and cruise out of sight.

Ashton has had a mere week to play Jack Charlton. Already he has introduced such things as purpose, coherence and brutal pragmatism. That is the right way to begin a story of sport. No romance, please, we're Irish.



Wallace attempts to halt the advance of a rampaging Benazzi at Lansdowne Road



# Championship welcomes return of the dragon



Townsend: out of form

Just as reports of the death of the five nations championship have been shown to be greatly exaggerated, those in recent times about the demise of Wales are proving to be unfounded. The old dragon, breathed fire at Murrayfield on Saturday and while it is far too early for Wales to get carried away, England and the rest will note this apparent resurgence extremely carefully.

It is significant that the last weekend of the championship brings Wales and England together at Cardiff. For several years, perhaps too many, England and France have dominated. Wales seem to be emerging as a strong force again. Even in their defeat by South Africa last month, the potential was there to be seen and, in winning away from home, they are off to the best possible start.

After watching Wales, Jack Rowell, the England coach, has every reason to be a bit worried. It is important, however, that England forget about that particular enemy and concentrate on another: Scotland, at Twickenham in 12 days time. Your first game is, in many ways, the most vital. Wales will be buoyed by an away victory, knowing they have Ireland next, at home, and England must get a good victory under their belts against Scotland if they are to apply the pressure this year.

I remain convinced that the championship this year is more open than for some time, but that Scotland and, more especially, Ireland, are lagging behind. Many respects, Wales have shown that by the addition of two or three individuals with some spark, they can be transformed. That is where Scotland are struggling. Gregor Townsend can be their inspiration, but, frankly, he is not playing well and, for all his silky skills, he did not relish the contact area on Saturday. The question of whether he is a centre or stand-off half has to be resolved quickly by Scotland's selectors.

It is no coincidence with Wales that the turnaround in their fortunes has coincided with the arrival of the returnees from rugby league. In the midfield, the tackling of Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman was immense. Rugby union still has much to learn from rugby league when it comes to defence. League players pride themselves on their big hits, as much as their prowess in attack, whereas in union there is still a slight reticence to concentrate on defensive work.

Scott Quinnell was another former league player who made a huge impact at No. 8. Opposite him, I am not sure that No. 8 is the position for Rob Wainwright. He can perhaps make a better contribution on either flank, although he is just back from injury and his form will improve. The plain fact is, though, that Scotland face some stark choices ahead of the England encounter.

For Wales, Arwel Thomas had his best game at No. 10. He has always looked a good footballer, although the worry persists that better sides will always target him because of his size. The jury is still out on him.

The choice of Neil Jenkins at full back does smack somewhat of finding a position for their place-kicker, and then there is the question of having someone of Jonathan Davies' talent on the bench. Either he is in the side or you do not bother picking him, surely?

Ireland threw fire, brimstone and the kitchen sink at France, but until they can find a way of scoring other than through the boot, they are going nowhere. On a couple of occasions they returned from the French line with three points when they might have come away with seven. All their huge desire cannot overcome the fact that they do not possess the creative or incisive talent to score tries.

France were in typical early season form. They bided their time and, with a few pieces of good possession, the odd bit of skill and individual flair, they raced away. They, too, will improve, but there is no doubting that we already have a fine championship bubbling up. It was good also to welcome the arrival of the five nations' after the series of poor and generally meaningless international matches before Christmas.

We knock the five nations' at our peril. No other sport in Britain pits home nation against home nation. It is an event to be cherished. More Welshmen turned up in Edinburgh than did in Cardiff for the United States game the previous week. The public knows best.

## Rob Andrew believes other countries must take note of a powerful performance



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Gibbs: pride in defence

## Quick solution required for numbers game

As important as any of the selections, that will be announced today, for the England side to meet Scotland at Twickenham on Saturday week, is the back-row combination. It is not simply a case of perming three from the six back-row forwards in the squad — Lawrence Dallaglio, Tim Rodber and Chris Sheasby, who all figured in the three matches before Christmas, and Neil Back, Ben Clarke and Richard Hill — but getting the balance right so that England play the way they want.

A successful back row consists of a clogger, a carrier and a creator, from No. 6 to No. 8. England are hacking at a thin seam in respect of all three positions. Indeed, it was the backbone of the team — the middle five of half backs and back row — that crumbled against the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina.

Of course, a back row can only be as effective as the ball won for it by the tight five, but the combination of back row and lock forward is easier to fashion than flankers and No. 8.

On one point — the paucity of back-row talent — a distinguished panel of men who played there for England was agreed, but, when asked who Jack Rowell, the England coach, should pick, their views varied. Were Roger Uttley (1973-80) at blind-side flanker, Gary Rees (1984-91), interchangeable at open-side or blind-side, and John Scott (1978-84) at No. 8, around now, the selectors' task might be straightforward.

England stuck by a 6-7-8 of Rodber, Dallaglio and Sheasby before Christmas. The blind-side, as the word implies, must shut out the opposition. Too often, Rodber missed tackles and looked lost. Dallaglio, too, was uncomfortable in the open-side role, which is not a natural one for him. Sheasby was lively, but, when the New Zealand Barbarians applied the squeeze, his contribution shrivelled.

The question of open-side has not been resolved since the retirement, four years ago, of Peter Winterbottom, the definitive No. 7. England's options

## Christopher Irvine turns to some great names of the past for their solutions to England's problems in the back row

are Dallaglio, Back or Hill, of Saracens. Rees is concerned that England will opt for power, in which case Dallaglio might remain. Rather, he sees development of the rapid recycling game, along New Zealand lines, as imperative.

The game now is about keeping the ball alive past the gain line, and not letting the situation whereby you might have an overlap die," Rees said. "England are still too slow. That's where Winterbottom was so good. As well as clever distribution, he would stop the opposition dead."

It's a continuing debate whether you play the shorter Neil Back (5ft 10in) or someone bigger. Most open-sides are around 6ft. He must read the lines of running, stop the

opposition, but, above all, have vision. Dallaglio coming off the tail of the lineout can be sucked in by the opposition backs. With Back, the opposition can drive it closer and tackle him out. I think you need an individual, like Richard Hill, in between."

With greater fitness levels, repeating what comes naturally to the All Blacks is by no means impossible," Rees advocates a clinic for open-sides. If there is a Michael Jones out there, he has yet to show himself, but Uttley feels that Back is the nearest thing to the daunting, agile and powerful footballer that New Zealand unearthed.

Uttley said: "Back is fine at open-side, provided you have a front five securing good ball. I couldn't understand why Sheasby was substituted against Argentina. I'd keep him at No. 8 because he is

looking to create. Dallaglio has been at blind-side for Wasps, and I'd prefer him there. The question is do you go for Back and Dallaglio as flankers, and sacrifice the bulk and height of Rodber at the lineout?"

"Before you start with the back row, the half backs have to be sorted out, in order to get the midfield guys being hit with the ball earlier. England have looked as if they had no idea what plan A, never mind plan B, was about. When it got tough, New Zealand showed their greater awareness and skills. We've still got to get used to the idea of selfless running off the ball."

In his old position, Scott advocates a policy of back to the future. "We already have a class No. 8," he said. "With Dean Richards's attitude and experience, I can't imagine why he's not there. He's fitter now than he's ever been and playing some of his best rugby, but England have been locked into thinking for three or four years that

he's past it. The spine of your pack is hooker and No. 8, and with Dean you've the solid base. The flankers slot in. There's not a lot at open-side. Back's as good as we've got, but the attitude to him sums up England's problem. They worry. If a player's too old, too young, too small. Their thinking about selection — even the way England play — isn't right. There are players out there, but selectors aren't going out to see them."

In the early Eighties they'd give young guys a go, chuck them out after a game, then Geoff Cooke came along as coach and he looked and listened and learnt, and stuck with his guys. You select your strongest side and stick with it: not allowing the gremlins in."

Scott would opt for Dallaglio (blind-side), Back (open-side) and Richards (No. 8). Uttley would choose Dallaglio, Back and Sheasby; Rees would include Hill.



Dallaglio, championed by many at the start of the season for the England captaincy, now finds his place in doubt



Rodber, Sheasby, Back, Hill and Clarke join with Dallaglio to provide the back-row alternatives for the selectors

## Grayson's kicking skill could tip balance

By DAVID HANDS

ENGLAND, having watched the other contenders in the five nations' championship in action over the weekend, today reveal their team for the defence of the championship they won last year on the back of Paul Grayson's kicking.

They play Scotland at Twickenham on February 1 and one of several contentious issues to be resolved is whether Grayson returns to the fold. Coincidentally, the Northampton stand-off half, who won five caps and scored 81 points last season, faced Mike Catt yesterday in the league match with Bath. Catt's last chance to confirm the place he has occupied for England this season in their three international matches before Christmas. Not that scoring has been Catt's problem, since 43 points is no bad return for an occasional goalkicker, but it is his generalship that is in question.

The choice of stand-off may also govern selection at scrum half, because Alex King must enter the equation too. Successful with England a last season, an England replacement this season, King's claims as an all-round footballer have been enhanced with Wasps, where he partners Andy Gomarsall. There is a degree of logic in opting for a club pairing — as with Grayson and Matt Dawson, now injured last season — but Gomarsall has attracted only mixed reviews since his successful debut against Italy in November.

If debate over the key tactical areas of back row and half back were not enough, we may also reach a resolution over the centres, where the three primary contenders, Phil de Glanville, Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott, have been joined by a fourth in Will Greenwood, who has recovered his best form in Leicester's run to the Heineken Cup final.

Despite his obvious merits, Guscott has been omitted from England's first two games, and returned against Argentina only because of injury to de Glanville, the captain. Since Jack Rowell, the coach, has confirmed his faith in de Glanville "subject to form and fitness" and Guscott offers essential variety in midfield, the doubt over Carling's international future, after 69 caps, returns.

Wainwright L M; Walker A D; Walker D C; Wallis J C; Walsh G; Walters G P; Warrenham C; Warriner G H; Waters D W; Waters E; Watson J J; Webster D; Wemyss K; Westwood M; Wheeler C R; Wheeler E; Wheeler L; Wheeler M; Whelan C J; Whelan L; Whelan R; Whelan S; Whelan T; Whelan W; Whelan X; Whelan Y; Whelan Z; Whelan AA; Whelan AB; Whelan AC; Whelan AD; Whelan AE; Whelan AF; Whelan AG; Whelan AH; Whelan AI; Whelan AJ; Whelan AK; Whelan AL; Whelan AM; Whelan AN; Whelan AO; Whelan AP; Whelan AQ; Whelan AR; Whelan AS; Whelan AT; Whelan AU; Whelan AV; Whelan AW; Whelan AX; Whelan AY; Whelan AZ; Whelan BA; Whelan BB; Whelan BC; Whelan BD; Whelan BE; Whelan BF; Whelan BG; Whelan BH; Whelan BI; Whelan BJ; Whelan BK; Whelan BL; Whelan BM; Whelan BN; Whelan BO; Whelan BP; Whelan BQ; Whelan BR; Whelan BS; Whelan BT; Whelan BU; Whelan BV; Whelan BW; Whelan BX; Whelan BY; Whelan BZ; Whelan CA; Whelan CB; Whelan CC; Whelan CD; Whelan CE; Whelan CF; Whelan CG; Whelan CH; Whelan CI; Whelan CJ; Whelan CK; Whelan CL; Whelan CM; Whelan CN; Whelan CO; Whelan CP; Whelan CQ; Whelan CR; Whelan CS; Whelan CT; Whelan CU; Whelan CV; Whelan CW; Whelan CX; Whelan CY; Whelan CZ; Whelan DA; Whelan DB; Whelan DC; Whelan DD; Whelan DE; Whelan DF; Whelan DG; Whelan DH; Whelan DI; Whelan DJ; Whelan DK; Whelan DL; Whelan DM; Whelan DN; Whelan DO; Whelan DP; Whelan DQ; Whelan DR; Whelan DS; Whelan DT; Whelan DU; Whelan DV; Whelan DW; Whelan DX; Whelan DY; Whelan DZ; Whelan EA; Whelan EB; Whelan EC; Whelan ED; Whelan EE; Whelan EF; Whelan EG; Whelan EH; Whelan EI; Whelan EJ; Whelan EK; Whelan EL; Whelan EM; Whelan EN; Whelan EO; Whelan EP; Whelan EQ; Whelan ER; Whelan ES; Whelan ET; Whelan EU; Whelan EV; Whelan EW; Whelan EX; Whelan EY; Whelan EZ; Whelan FA; Whelan FB; Whelan FC; Whelan FD; Whelan FE; Whelan FF; Whelan FG; Whelan FH; Whelan FI; Whelan FJ; Whelan FK; Whelan FL; Whelan FM; Whelan FN; Whelan FO; Whelan FP; Whelan FQ; Whelan FR; Whelan FS; Whelan FT; Whelan FU; Whelan FV; Whelan FW; Whelan FX; Whelan FY; Whelan FZ; Whelan GA; Whelan GB; Whelan GC; Whelan GD; Whelan GE; Whelan GF; Whelan GG; Whelan GH; Whelan GI; Whelan GJ; Whelan GK; Whelan GL; Whelan GM; Whelan GN; Whelan GO; Whelan GP; Whelan GQ; Whelan GR; Whelan GS; Whelan GT; Whelan GU; Whelan GV; Whelan GW; Whelan GX; Whelan GY; Whelan GZ; Whelan HA; Whelan HB; Whelan HC; Whelan HD; Whelan HE; Whelan HF; Whelan HG; Whelan HH; Whelan HI; Whelan HJ; Whelan HK; Whelan HL; Whelan HM; Whelan HN; Whelan HO; Whelan HP; Whelan HQ; Whelan HR; Whelan HS; Whelan HT; Whelan HU; Whelan HV; Whelan HW; Whelan HX; Whelan HY; Whelan HZ; Whelan IA; Whelan IB; Whelan IC; Whelan ID; Whelan IE; Whelan IF; Whelan IG; Whelan IH; Whelan II; Whelan IJ; Whelan IK; Whelan IL; Whelan IM; Whelan IN; Whelan IO; Whelan IP; Whelan IQ; Whelan IR; Whelan IS; Whelan IT; Whelan IU; Whelan IV; Whelan IW; Whelan IX; Whelan IY; Whelan IZ; Whelan JA; Whelan JB; Whelan JC; Whelan JD; Whelan JE; Whelan JF; Whelan JG; Whelan JH; Whelan JI; Whelan JJ; Whelan JK; Whelan JL; Whelan JM; Whelan JN; Whelan JO; Whelan JP; Whelan JQ; Whelan JR; Whelan JS; Whelan JT; Whelan JU; Whelan JV; Whelan JW; Whelan JX; Whelan JY; Whelan JZ; Whelan KA; Whelan KB; Whelan KC; Whelan KD; Whelan KE; Whelan KF; Whelan KG; Whelan KH; Whelan KI; Whelan KJ; Whelan KL; Whelan KM; Whelan KN; Whelan KO; Whelan KP; Whelan KQ; Whelan KR; Whelan KS; Whelan KT; Whelan KU; Whelan KV; Whelan KW; Whelan KX; Whelan KY; Whelan KZ; Whelan LA; Whelan LB; Whelan LC; Whelan LD; Whelan LE; Whelan LF; Whelan LG; Whelan LH; Whelan LI; Whelan LJ; Whelan LK; Whelan LM; Whelan LN; Whelan LO; Whelan LP; Whelan LQ; Whelan LR; Whelan LS; Whelan LT; Whelan LU; Whelan LV; Whelan LW; Whelan LX; Whelan LY; Whelan LZ; Whelan MA; Whelan MB; Whelan MC; Whelan MD; Whelan ME; Whelan MF; Whelan MG; Whelan MH; Whelan MI; Whelan MJ; Whelan MK; Whelan ML; Whelan MN; Whelan MO; Whelan MP; Whelan MQ; Whelan MR; Whelan MS; Whelan MT; Whelan MU; Whelan MV; Whelan MW; Whelan MX; Whelan MY; Whelan MZ; Whelan NA; Whelan NB; Whelan NC; Whelan ND; Whelan NE; Whelan NF; Whelan NG; Whelan NH; Whelan NI; Whelan NJ; Whelan NK; Whelan NL; Whelan NM; Whelan NN; Whelan NO; Whelan NP; Whelan NQ; Whelan NR; Whelan NS; Whelan NT; Whelan NU; Whelan NV; Whelan NW; Whelan NX; Whelan NY; Whelan NZ; Whelan OA; Whelan OB; Whelan OC; Whelan OD; Whelan OE; Whelan OF; Whelan OG; Whelan OH; Whelan OI; Whelan OJ; Whelan OK; Whelan OL; Whelan OM; Whelan ON; Whelan OO; Whelan OP; Whelan OQ; Whelan OR; Whelan OS; Whelan OT; Whelan OU; Whelan OV; Whelan OW; Whelan OX; Whelan OY; Whelan OZ; Whelan PA; Whelan PB; Whelan PC; Whelan PD; Whelan PE; Whelan PF; Whelan PG; Whelan PH; Whelan PI; Whelan PJ; Whelan PK; Whelan PL; Whelan PM; Whelan PN; Whelan PO; Whelan PP; Whelan PQ; Whelan PR; Whelan PS; Whelan PT; Whelan PU; Whelan PV; Whelan PW; Whelan PX; Whelan PY; Whelan PZ; Whelan QA; Whelan QB; Whelan QC; Whelan QD; Whelan QE; Whelan QF; Whelan QG; Whelan QH; Whelan QI; Whelan QJ; Whelan QK; Whelan QL; Whelan QM; Whelan QN; Whelan QO; 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Whelan UC; Whelan UD; Whelan UE; Whelan UF; Whelan UG; Whelan UH; Whelan UI; Whelan UJ; Whelan UK; Whelan UL; Whelan UM; Whelan UN; Whelan UO; Whelan UP; Whelan UQ; Whelan UR; Whelan US; Whelan UT; Whelan UU; Whelan UV; Whelan UW; Whelan UX; Whelan UY; Whelan UZ; Whelan VA; Whelan VB; Whelan VC; Whelan VD; Whelan VE; Whelan VF; Whelan VG; Whelan VH; Whelan VI; Whelan VJ; Whelan VK; Whelan VL; Whelan VM; Whelan VN; Whelan VO; Whelan VP; Whelan VQ; Whelan VR; Whelan VS; Whelan VT; Whelan VU; Whelan VV; Whelan VW; Whelan VX; Whelan VY; Whelan VZ; Whelan WA; Whelan WB; Whelan WC; Whelan WD; Whelan WE; Whelan WF; Whelan WG; Whelan WH; Whelan WI; Whelan WJ; Whelan WK; Whelan WL; Whelan WM; Whelan WN; Whelan WO; Whelan WP; Whelan WQ; Whelan WR; Whelan WS; Whelan WT; Whelan WU; Whelan WV; Whelan WW; Whelan WX; Whelan WY; Whelan WZ; Whelan XA; Whelan XB; Whelan XC; Whelan XD; Whelan XE; Whelan XF; Whelan XG; Whelan XH; Whelan XI; Whelan XJ; Whelan XK; Whelan XL; Whelan XM; Whelan XN; Whelan XO; Whelan XP; Whelan XQ; Whelan XR; Whelan XS; Whelan XT; Whelan XU; Whelan XV; Whelan XW; Whelan XX; Whelan XY; Whelan XZ; Whelan YA; Whelan YB; Whelan YC; Whelan YD; Whelan YE; Whelan YF; Whelan YG; Whelan YH; Whelan YI; Whelan YJ; Whelan YK; Whelan YL; Whelan YM; Whelan YN; Whelan YO; Whelan YP; Whelan YQ; Whelan YR; Whelan YS; Whelan YT; Whelan YU; Whelan YV; Whelan YW; Whelan YX; Whelan YY; Whelan YZ; Whelan ZA; Whelan ZB; Whelan ZC; Whelan ZD; Whelan ZE; Whelan ZF; Whelan ZG; Whelan ZH; Whelan ZI; Whelan ZJ; Whelan ZK; Whelan ZL; Whelan ZM; Whelan ZN; Whelan ZO; Whelan ZP; Whelan ZQ; Whelan ZR; Whelan ZS; Whelan ZT; Whelan ZU; Whelan ZV; Whelan ZW; Whelan ZX; Whelan ZY; Whelan ZZ.

## Institute of Legal Executives Autumn 1996 Examination Part II

- The following have passed the Institute of Legal Executives Part II Autumn 1996 Membership examinations.
- A Court L A; Adams J; Adams S; Adams T; Adams U; Adams V; Adams W; Adams X; Adams Y; Adams Z; Adams AA; Adams AB; Adams AC; Adams AD; Adams AE; Adams AF; Adams AG; Adams AH; Adams AI; Adams AJ; Adams AK; Adams AL; Adams AM; Adams AN; Adams AO; Adams AP; Adams AQ; Adams AR; Adams AS; Adams AT; Adams AU; Adams AV; Adams AW; Adams AX; Adams AY; Adams AZ; Adams BA; Adams BB; Adams BC; Adams BD; Adams BE; Adams BF; Adams BG; Adams BH; Adams BI; Adams BJ; Adams BK; Adams BL; Adams BM; Adams BN; Adams BO; Adams BP; Adams BQ; Adams BR; Adams BS; Adams BT; Adams BU; Adams BV; Adams BW; Adams BX; Adams BY; Adams BZ; Adams CA; Adams CB; Adams CC; Adams CD; Adams CE; Adams CF; Adams CG; Adams CH; Adams CI; Adams CJ; Adams CK; Adams CL; Adams CM; Adams CN; Adams CO; Adams CP; Adams CQ; Adams CR; Adams CS; Adams CT; Adams CU; Adams CV; Adams CW; Adams CX; Adams CY; Adams CZ; Adams DA; Adams DB; Adams DC; Adams DD; Adams DE; Adams DF; Adams DG; Adams DH; Adams DI; Adams DJ; Adams DK; Adams DL; Adams DM; Adams DN; Adams DO; Adams DP; Adams DQ; Adams DR; Adams DS; Adams DT; Adams DU; Adams DV; Adams DW; Adams DX; Adams DY; Adams DZ; Adams EA; Adams EB; Adams EC; Adams ED; Adams EE; Adams EF; Adams EG; Adams EH; Adams EI; Adams EJ; Adams EK; Adams EL; Adams EM; Adams EN; Adams EO; Adams EP; Adams EQ; Adams ER; Adams ES; Adams ET; Adams EU; Adams EV; Adams EW; Adams EX; Adams EY; Adams EZ; Adams FA; Adams FB; Adams FC; Adams FD; Adams FE; Adams FF; Adams FG; Adams FH; Adams FI; Adams FJ; Adams FK; Adams FL; Adams FM; Adams FN; Adams FO; Adams FP; Adams FQ; Adams FR; Adams FS; Adams FT; Adams FU; Adams FV; Adams FW; Adams FX; Adams FY; Adams FZ; Adams GA; Adams GB; Adams GC; Adams GD; Adams GE; Adams GF; Adams GG; Adams GH; Adams GI; Adams GJ; Adams GK; Adams GL; Adams GM; Adams GN; Adams GO; Adams GP; Adams GQ; Adams GR; Adams GS; Adams GT; Adams GU; Adams GV; Adams GW; Adams GX; Adams GY; Adams GZ; Adams HA; Adams HB; Adams HC; Adams HD; Adams HE; Adams HF; Adams HG; Adams HH; Adams HI; Adams HJ; Adams HK; Adams HL; Adams HM; Adams HN; Adams HO; Adams HP; Adams HQ; Adams HR; Adams HS; Adams HT; Adams HU; Adams HV; Adams HW; Adams HX; Adams HY; Adams HZ; Adams IA; Adams IB; Adams IC; Adams ID; Adams IE; Adams IF; Adams IG; Adams IH; Adams II; Adams IJ; Adams IK; Adams IL; Adams IM; Adams IN; Adams IO; Adams IP; Adams IQ; Adams IR; Adams IS; Adams IT; Adams IU; Adams IV; Adams IW; Adams IX; Adams IY; Adams IZ; Adams JA; Adams JB; Adams JC; Adams JD; Adams JE; Adams JF; Adams JG; Adams JH; Adams JI; Adams JJ; Adams JK; Adams JL; Adams JM; Adams JN; Adams JO; Adams JP; Adams JQ; Adams JR; Adams JS; Adams JT; Adams JU; Adams JV; Adams JW; Adams JX; Adams JY; Adams JZ; Adams KA; Adams KB; Adams KC; Adams KD; Adams KE; Adams KF; Adams KG; Adams KH; Adams KI; Adams KJ; Adams KL; Adams KM; Adams KN; Adams KO; Adams KP; Adams KQ; Adams KR; Adams KS; Adams KT; Adams KU; Adams KV; Adams KW; Adams KX; Adams KY; Adams KZ; Adams LA; Adams LB; Adams LC; Adams LD; Adams LE; Adams LF; Adams LG; Adams LH; Adams LI; Adams LJ; Adams LK; Adams LM; Adams LN; Adams LO; Adams LP; Adams LQ; Adams LR; Adams LS; Adams LT; Adams LU; Adams LV; Adams LW; Adams LX; Adams LY; Adams LZ; Adams MA; Adams MB; Adams MC; Adams MD; Adams ME; Adams MF; Adams MG; Adams MH; Adams MI; Adams MJ; Adams MK; Adams ML; Adams MN; Adams MO; Adams MP; Adams MQ; Adams MR; Adams MS; Adams MT; Adams MU; Adams MV; Adams MW; Adams MX; Adams MY; Adams MZ; Adams NA; Adams NB; Adams NC; Adams ND; Adams NE; Adams NF; Adams NG; Adams NH; Adams NI; Adams NJ; Adams NK; Adams NL; Adams NM; Adams NN; Adams NO; Adams NP; Adams NQ; Adams NR; Adams NS; Adams NT; Adams NU; Adams NV; Adams NW; Adams NX; Adams NY; Adams NZ; Adams OA; Adams OB; Adams OC; Adams OD; Adams OE; Adams OF; Adams OG; Adams OH; Adams OI; Adams OJ; Adams OK; Adams OL; Adams OM; Adams ON; Adams OO; Adams OP; Adams OQ; Adams OR; Adams OS; Adams OT; Adams OU; Adams OV; Adams OW; Adams OX; Adams OY; Adams OZ; Adams PA; Adams PB; Adams PC; Adams PD; Adams PE; Adams PF; Adams PG; Adams PH; Adams PI; Adams PJ; Adams PK; Adams PL; Adams PM; Adams PN; Adams PO; Adams PP; Adams PQ; Adams PR; Adams PS; Adams PT; Adams PU; Adams PV; Adams PW; Adams PX; Adams PY; Adams PZ; Adams QA; Adams QB; Adams QC; Adams QD; Adams QE; Adams QF; Adams QG; Adams QH; Adams QI; Adams QJ; Adams QK; Adams QL; Adams QM; Adams QN; Adams QO; Adams QP; Adams QQ; Adams QR; Adams QS; Adams QT; Adams QU; Adams QV; Adams QW; Adams QX; Adams QY; Adams QZ; Adams RA; Adams RB; Adams RC; Adams RD; Adams RE; Adams RF; Adams RG; Adams RH; Adams RI; Adams RJ; Adams RK; Adams RL; Adams RM; Adams RN; Adams RO; Adams RP; Adams RQ; Adams RR; Adams RS; Adams RT; Adams RU; Adams RV; Adams RW; Adams RX; Adams RY; Adams RZ; Adams SA; Adams SB; Adams SC; Adams SD; Adams SE; Adams SF; Adams SG; Adams SH; Adams SI; Adams SJ; Adams SK; Adams SL; Adams SM; Adams SN; Adams SO; Adams SP; Adams SQ; Adams SR; Adams SS; Adams ST; Adams



## BASKETBALL

# Derby ring changes on road to play-offs

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

IF THE impressively large contingent of supporters who follow Derby Storm around the country ever have problems identifying their own team, then it is hardly their fault. Hardly a week goes by when a player is not added to the squad or another one departs.

So far, the Storm have used 25 players this turbulent season, far more than any other club in the Budweiser League. Ever since early October, when the flamboyant Rod Gregoire was sent back to New Orleans after an altercation with a policeman, the turnover has gained increasing momentum, with little apparent harm to Derby's league position.

However, the time has come to stop. After Derby had moved up to sixth place in the table and within sight of the play-offs after the 108-88 victory at Hemel and Watford Royals on Saturday, their coach, Jeff Jones, said: "I've got the personnel I want now, so I'm a bit sceptical about making any more changes."

As good as Gregoire was, Jones has since put his faith in solid characters. "I've gone away from the Gregoire type," he said. "I've gone with guys who give us stability, work hard and get the job done." Among the glut of talented newcomers are four English players, Bryan Bolser and David Agnew arrived from Siena University in New York to join up with Garnet Gayle and Wayne Mulgrave, both of whom had been released by Manchester Giants.

"I'm going to keep the nucleus of the English guys," Jones said after seeing them all score at Hemel Hemstead, Curtis Robinson, one of the few Americans to survive the purge, led Derby's scorers, with 24 points. There was also a 20-point contribution from his compatriot, Laurence Pearson.

With Jimmy Ratcliffe almost recovered from a stress frac-

ture and nine of their remaining 15 fixtures at home, Jones is confident of Derby's play-off chances. "We'll be all right," he said.

After their first win in 26 games at Crystal Palace's expense last week, the Royals encountered the more familiar feeling of defeat, but at least they had an excuse. They were without Ray Schultz, who had flu, as did three other players. Two who escaped it were Allen Koochoff, the team's top marksman with 18 points, and Derek Vogel, whose 17 points included a flurry of seven during a two-minute spell in the second quarter that was the only interruption to a decisive Derby burst of 25-7.

Like the Royals, Worthing Bears and Thames Valley Tigers are two clubs who will almost certainly not figure in the play-offs. Worthing must have thought they would coast home against Thames Valley after sinking the first 11 points, but it was anything but an easy ride. Grateful for 35 points from James Hamilton, they scraped a 86-83 win after the Tigers had gone into the final quarter leading 67-64.

Colin Irish, the former Worthing player-coach, who has signed for Manchester Giants after his release by the French club, Choler, is expected to make his debut in the home game against Chester Jets, the league leaders, on Wednesday.

Deil Curry scored his 10,000th career point and made five three-pointers to lead the Charlotte Hornets to their fourth straight victory, 102-92 over the New Jersey Nets.

Curry, who has played in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for ten years and was one of the original members of the Hornets, became the 202nd NBA player to reach the milestone. He did it with his specialty, the three-point shot, late in the second quarter on his way to gathering 27 points.



Kristian Ghedina, of Italy, powers to his third World Cup downhill victory of the season on Saturday. He covered the Lauberhorn course, in Switzerland, in the record time of 2min 24.36sec. Luc Alphand, of France, the World Cup

downhill champion, was second in 2min 24.36sec, ahead of Fritz Strobl and Werner Franz, both of Austria, in 2min 24.62sec and 2min 24.63sec. "I was really relaxed and confident coming into the race," Ghedina, who won the

Lauberhorn event in 1995, said, "but I didn't think Luc would be my main adversary today. His training runs didn't look that great, but on race day he becomes a different person. He's a racing beast."

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## Wiberg continues to dominate slalom

PERNILLA WIBERG, of Sweden, continued her dominance of the women's slalom in the Alpine Skiing World Cup with her third victory of the season in the discipline yesterday. Wiberg, the overall World Cup leader, defied an icy piste in Zwisel, Germany, to record her fifth World Cup triumph, with an aggregate time of 1min 33.52sec. Elfi Eder, of Austria, took second place with 1:35.21, with Deborah Compagnoni, of Italy, third, in 1:35.60.

The victory helped Wiberg to stretch her lead in the overall World Cup rankings to 328 points after third and fourth places in giant slaloms on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Katja Seizinger, Germany's defending champion, who finished seventh in the slalom, stayed second overall. "That was one of the fastest slaloms on the tour," Wiberg said. "It was easy to ski out of it. It's great to win like this and get closer to my main goal — the slalom World Cup."

## McNulty pulls clear

GOLF: Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, won his fourth South African Masters title yesterday, his final round of 67 enabling him to finish four strokes ahead of Adilson da Silva, of Brazil, who had led at the halfway stage of the tournament, held at San Lameer Country Club, Port Edward. McNulty and Da Silva were level with nine holes to play but the Zimbabwean broke the deadlock with birdies at the 12th and 13th holes, pulling away to record a four-round total of 276. Van Phillips, of Britain, finished joint fifth after a final round of 69.

Karrie Webb, of Australia, birdied three of the final five holes on the way to a two-under par 70 on Saturday to share the lead with Michelle McGann after two rounds of the LPGA Inaugural in Orlando, Florida.

## Triumph for Japan

MOTOR RALLYING: Kenjiro Shinozuka, in a Mitsubishi, completed the first Japanese victory in the Dakar rally yesterday, while Stephane Peterhansel secured his fifth victory in the motorcycle section on a Yamaha. Peterhansel, from France, came fifth on the final stage, from Saint-Louis to Dakar, but finished more than 2½ hours ahead, overall, of Oscar Gallardo, from Spain.

## Oldham bid farewell

RUGBY LEAGUE: Oldham brought down the curtain on 107 years of rugby at their Watersheddings ground with a 20-16 win over Swinton in a rerun of the match that opened the stadium back in 1889. Nearly 5,000 supporters turned up for the nostalgic occasion and Oldham signed off with tries by John Clark, their hooker, Rob Myler and Joe McNicholas, the wings, and Vince Fawcett, a centre.

## Sheffield breakthrough

ICE HOCKEY: Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils met for the fifth time in this season's Superleague on Saturday and, for the first time, the Steelers won. Sheffield led 5-0 by the ninth minute and although Cardiff fought back to 5-4 with two minutes left, they could not snatch a draw. The win took the Steelers to within a point of the Devils at the top of the table with a game in hand.

## First prize for Stranraer

CURLING: Hammy McMillan and his three-times European championship-winning quartet from Stranraer won the £5,000 first prize at the Bull International Trophy Tournament in Grindelwald, Switzerland, yesterday. In the final, McMillan's team overcame a Winterthur side headed by Andre Flotron — the man he beat for his second European title in 1995 — 4-3.

RUGBY UNION: BOTTOM FOUR BECOMING DETACHED IN COURAGE FIRST DIVISION AS LEICESTER TAKE OVER AT THE TOP

## Sleightholme proves Bath's Sunday best

Bath ..... 52  
Northampton ..... 14

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BATH will begin to think that there is something in Sunday rugby after this performance. The switch yesterday was their first in the Courage Clubs Championship and what made it all the sweeter was the defeat of Harlequins away to Saracens, which means that Bath have made up ground on yet another of their rivals at the top of the first division.

There was also the small matter of the defeat at Northampton last November to consider. That 9-0 loss could be seen as the jolt that has

made this such an uneven season for Bath, and the last thing they wanted was a repeat of that dismal experience, though Northampton must have acknowledged when they agreed to this fixture that a league double was unlikely.

Given their absences on international duty, Northampton could have postponed the game, but they played to avoid a pile-up of games late in the season. However, added to the four players involved with Ireland and Scotland were injuries to Dawson, Rodder, Walsh and Pountney, and the Recreation Ground is no place to arrive when missing half a team.

Not, at any rate, when Bath have their full complement of England backs, of whom none made merrier than Jon Sleightholme.

He had the first word and the last in scoring three of Bath's six tries, all of them worth savouring for pace and guile. His third a long-bursting run from his own line after Bath turned over Northampton possession.

Yet Sleightholme would be the first to acknowledge the skilful contribu-

Full results and league tables ..... Page 38

tion of those inside him, of whom none did better than Dan Lyle, the United States captain. Lyle suffered distinctly mixed fortunes on his country's brief tour of Wales recently, but here he was in his element, a rangy, athletic figure who enjoys

working with ball in hand and bringing off big hits.

Northampton suffered, too, from the loss, in the second quarter, of Paul Grayson, who was badly shaken in a tackle that left him unable to see out of one eye. Nick Beal moved off the wing to replace him Grayson's confrontation with Mike Catt never materialised. Instead, Catt could play his familiar role, as catalyst in so many of the sweeping movements that warmed the shivering crowd.

Moments after Grayson's departure, Northampton led 6-5, though the manner in which Sleightholme opened his account was warning enough — he erupted through mid-field and beat Beal and Hunter for pace. Callard's first two penalty goals gave Bath their 11-6 interval lead and

Catt's chargedown of Beal's kick opened a comfortable gap.

There was no stopping Bath after that. Backs and forwards mingled happily, Catt sending Lyle over for an exultant try. Sleightholme taking a wonderful angle to finish Catt's long run and Mendez recording a popular try after Haag and Lyle played the way.

SARACENS: Bath: Tries: Sleightholme (3), Catt, Lyle, Mendez. Conversions: Callard (3). Penalty goals: Callard (4). Northampton: Tries: MacLoughlin. Penalty goals: Beal (2), Grayson. Bath: J. Callard, J. Sleightholme, P. de Giovanni, J. Grayson, A. Mendez, M. Catt, I. Sanders, F. Mendez, D. Dawson, V. Ugochi, D. Lyle, M. Haag, N. Redman, A. Robinson, S. Ojemeh. Ugochi replaced by J. Maltby (60th).

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

## Record run propels Gloucester to safety

Gloucester ..... 37  
West Hartlepool ..... 10

BY NICHOLAS ANDREWS

ONLY victory in the last game of last season kept Gloucester from the relegation zone. The Rugby Football Union's subsequent largesse notwithstanding, this time around The Shed can rest easy.

Survival was the club's sole ambition when the Courage Clubs Championship programme began again, and, in the first five fixtures, suggested another year of scrapping among the also-rans. However, a record run of six successive victories has lifted Gloucester to mid-table.

The team is playing with the confidence that victory brings. Mark Maplefield is the division's third-highest scorer and, on Saturday, passed 500 points for the club in only his 45th game. The front five are motoring powerfully, with Phil Greening at the wheel, and there was the almost unheard-of phenomenon of three tries for a Gloucester wing, albeit from Mike Lloyd, a former Bath man. Ed Pearce, another refugee from the Recreation Ground, also

caught the eye, filling Pete Gilman's berth on the flank. Ian Smith will not get into this side, even when his broken thumb heals, and so could soon be Bristol-bound. It says a lot for the Gloucester pack that they need not miss him.

Reports of West Hartlepool's recovery have been exaggerated. However, the scoreline failed to reflect their contribution to the first half, when they kept the deficit to eight points. Lloyd's second try, when he caught Matthew Silva's drop-out and charged unimpeded through the defence, was a decisive blow a minute after the restart. Mark Ring's injury-hit squad suffered further as Wayne de Jonge and Michael Wood went off injured.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Lloyd (2), Wood, Maplefield. Conversions: Maplefield (3). Penalty goals: Maplefield (2). Droppings: goal, Lloyd. West Hartlepool: Tries: J. Smith. Conversions: Smith (2). Penalty goals: Smith (2). Gloucester: J. Greening, M. Lloyd, D. Dawson, M. Haag, M. Catt, I. Sanders, F. Mendez, D. Dawson, V. Ugochi, D. Lyle, M. Haag, N. Redman, A. Robinson, S. Ojemeh. Ugochi replaced by J. Maltby (60th).

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

## Healey accelerates his claim for recognition

Leicester ..... 53  
Bristol ..... 19

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AUSTIN HEALEY gave a display at Welford Road on Saturday that sparked with wit, impudence and self-belief. These qualities were contained in an outstanding try, and he was the inspiration behind three more.

Against a side as poor as Bristol, international potential is hard to gauge, but Healey, Back and Greenwood have raised their stock considerably.

Of Healey, 23, the third-choice England No 9 behind Andy Gomarsall and Kyran Bracken, Bob Dwyer, Leicester's Australian coach, said: "One quality, his cover defence, is better than any scrum half in the world. His pace in attack is up with the best. You add those qualities and he'd give you that something out of the ordinary, which some see as necessary for the England team. I'd pick him before the incumbent [Gomarsall]."

Dwyer would also find it impossible to omit Greenwood and Back. The pair

linked with immaculate precision for the first of Leicester's six tries after a blind-side break by Healey had blundered the Bristol defence.

Between an audacious tapped penalty to supply Underwood with a try and providing Stranksy with another, Healey initially had Dwyer cursing as he raced from his own line, ignoring a colleague outside him. He made the Bristol 22, however, where Back appeared to be held up, yet got the perfect pass away for Healey's sumptuous score.

Without the injured Healey for the last quarter, Leicester still managed a penalty try, won by Lloyd, and Lyle took his place-kicking haul to 23 points.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Greenwood, Underwood, Healey, Stranksy, Lyle, Dwyer. Conversions: Lyle (4). Penalty goals: Lyle (3). Bristol: Tries: J. Smith. Conversions: Smith (2). Penalty goals: Smith (2). Leicester: J. Greening, M. Lloyd, D. Dawson, M. Haag, M. Catt, I. Sanders, F. Mendez, D. Dawson, V. Ugochi, D. Lyle, M. Haag, N. Redman, A. Robinson, S. Ojemeh. Ugochi replaced by J. Maltby (60th).

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

## Orrell's priorities in need of adjustment

Orrell ..... 8  
Sale ..... 40

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ACCORDING to Orrell, this Courage Clubs Championship match at Edgehall Road on Saturday was infinitely more important than the Pilkington Cup tie against the same opponents next weekend. Judging by the result, which leaves them with little left to salvage from their worst league season, they will surely change their priorities.

Not that too many among their shrinking band of supporters will be counting on any marked improvement. In the past two weeks Orrell have thrown in the towel against West Hartlepool and capitulated almost as feebly to Sale. With ambitions in the league (hopefully a top-four finish) and cup, Sale take the view that every match is of equal importance and the emphatic measure of their win here will boost their confidence.

At full strength, Sale took advantage of Orrell's evident disorganisation, with Dewi Morris marking his return to his former stamping ground

with two sharply-taken tries. That Sale opted for scrums instead of penalties every time Orrell infringed near their own line said a great deal for their attitude; two led directly to tries.

Throughout, Sale looked to be at their most persuasive when Maffinder counter-attacked. It was his forceful running that initially unhinged Orrell.

As the match progressed, Sale broadened their options. Devereux wrecked the defence with his powerful breaks while Mannix and Baxendale demonstrated their more subtle touches.

Though the opening phase was even, Sale effectively wrapped up victory with a four-try blitz — from Mannix, Maffinder, Morris and Beim — in 14 minutes. After that, the only question was how many points they would amass.

SCORERS: Orrell: Tries: Mannix, Maffinder, Morris, Beim. Conversions: Mannix (2), Maffinder, Beim, O'Grady, A. Smith. Sale: S. Taborer, J. Naylor, D. Lyle, L. Taborer, M. Maffinder, M. Morris, S. Taborer, A. Mannix, P. Beem, R. Hogg, P. Angelsen. Hogg replaced by R. Hogg (60th). SALE: J. Mannix, D. Beem, J. Baxendale, J. Devereux, T. Beem, S. Mannix, D. Morris, P. Smith, S. Taborer, A. Mannix, D. Baxendale, J. Naylor, J. Maffinder, D. O'Grady, C. Wyke. Mannix replaced by A. Hogg (65). Naylor replaced by N. Ashurst (70). Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

Saracens ..... 28  
Harlequins ..... 20

BY JOHN HOPKINS

SARACENS do make life difficult for visitors to Enfield. They remain unbeaten this season in the Courage Clubs Championship in the fastness of the Great Cambridge Road and, when you analyse the contributions made in this hard-fought and deserved victory by Michael Lynagh, Phil Lynagh, Sella and Francois Pienaar, not to mention a combative Kyran Bracken and the outstanding Richard Hill and Tony Diprose, then it is not difficult to see why.

Saracens have good players in the key positions and Harlequins, perhaps slightly off the boil after successive victories over Wasps and Bath, could not match them.

Lynagh demonstrated wondrous handling skills and punted beautifully, two of his kicks laying the groundwork for tries and Sella tackled like a man possessed. In his first game at home, Pienaar was at his best for an hour, but that was sufficient for him to demonstrate what a formidable presence he can bring to Saracens' already powerful back row.

Jack Rowell, the England coach, was present to see Hill and Diprose press their claims for international places, and he must have been pleased at the way that Bracken refused to yield to the impressive Harlequins back row.

A surprisingly quiet first half, in which Lynagh dropped a goal and kicked two penalty goals and Thierry Lacroix kicked two penalty goals, was followed by a vigorous and rousing second period. First Sella scored for Saracens, then Lacroix made a break and threw out a long pass that enabled Daren O'Leary to score in the corner. Both were converted.

Harlequins had the edge in the scrums, where the wily Laurent Bénézech was too strong for Adrian Oliver, and the pushover try that Huw Harries scored midway

through the half was no more than they deserved. At this stage it seemed that Harlequins would hold on and win.

That, though, is to denigrate Saracens, who responded immediately. After one of those pinpoint kicks by Lynagh, Diprose powered over in the corner. Thus did Saracens regain the lead, and they made sure of victory when they forced Tony Copsey over for their third try with seven minutes remaining.

Saracens now need to start winning away games. Then they can challenge for a place in Europe, and be more of a presence in the first division, too. They have moved up to sixth, five points behind Leicester with two games in hand. At present, Saracens are just one of the teams that have ended the Bath and Leicester duopoly, and the game is all the better for that.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Sella, Diprose, Copsey, Conversions: Lynagh (2). Penalty goals: Lynagh (2). Droppings: goal, Lynagh. Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary, Pienaar, Bracken, Lacroix (2). Saracens: M. Lynagh, P. Sella, K. Bracken, T. Diprose, M. Pienaar, R. Hill, A. Mannix, D. Baxendale, J. Naylor, J. Maffinder, D. O'Grady, C. Wyke. Pienaar replaced by J. Mannix (64). HARLEQUINS: J. Mannix, D. O'Leary, P. Sella, T. Diprose, M. Pienaar, R. Hill, A. Mannix, D. Baxendale, J. Naylor, J. Maffinder, D. O'Grady, C. Wyke. Pienaar replaced by J. Mannix (64). Referee: A. Spradbury (Somerset).

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# Mel Webb says young golfers have much to gain from exciting new sponsorship

## Leadbetter joins search for next Faldo

It has passed into the modern folklore of golf that the sight on television of a majestic Jack Nicklaus winning the Masters inspired a sports-mad teenager from Welwyn Garden City to abandon his sport of preference, which at the time was cycling, and take up the Royal and Ancient game.

That was in the Seventies. In the Eighties, the two years in which the same young fellow withdrew from the arc light of celebrity to put himself, and his game, into the care of a little-known British-born Zimbabwean coach, have come to acquire the same sort of fabled quality as his initial enchantment with the game.

The young golfer was Nick Faldo, the teacher who dismembered his swing and created a player who has gone on to win six major championships. David Leadbetter, Faldo has been the front-of-house attraction in their partnership. Leadbetter, the Svengali content to pull the instructional strings behind the scenes. It is the way the



Springate, centre, leads a bunch of young hopefuls on a reconnaissance of the course at Chart Hills where the Tournament of Champions will be held next November



modest Leadbetter prefers it, he is probably the best-known golf coach in the world, but it is typical of him that the part he has played in the development of an important new initiative to encourage and nurture talented young players has been as discreet as it has been essential.

The Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour, in association with *The Times*, has been created to give added impetus to the pioneering work put in over the past three years by an unassuming and enthusiastic chartered surveyor from Kent.

Colin Springate created the tour in its original form in 1994 after Daniel, his golf-mad son, a member of a club that had no organised junior section, found that as an eight-handicap he was getting little chance to play in fair competition with others of a similar standard.

Daniel was becoming tired of being beaten with net 60s by opponents who held dubious handicap certificates showing that they played off 20 when, had they submitted cards more regularly, they would have been a good ten shots lower. At the same time, Springate Jr and others playing off high single figures were just outside the standard re-

quired for such things as selection for county teams. For these youngsters, good and improving players, the competitive outlook was bleak.

Springate Sr, who does not play himself, looked into his son's complaint and found it was justified. Thus was born the competition that has now taken a quantum leap forward with a three-year sponsorship commitment by Daihatsu (UK), together with support from *The Times*.

Daihatsu's arrival on the scene has added lustre to what was already a successful competition under Springate's dedicated stewardship. For a start, it has enabled Springate, who managed to earn a living in those increasingly rare moments when not involved in tour arrangements, to become a full-time tournament director. Previously, he had funded the tour himself, even down to footing the bill for the match-

ing clothing that is provided for the boys.

Springate is now based in Dorset, but when still living in Kent he took an event to Chart Hills, the European headquarters of Leadbetter's worldwide coaching academy. There he fell into conversation with Leadbetter, who was making one of his periodic visits to his base at the Faldo-designed course. They chatted for 90 minutes and Leadbetter was so taken with the scheme that he swiftly became its patron.

"He has been terrific," Springate said. "He rings me every couple of weeks or so to check on our progress, and could not be more supportive. We could not have gone as far as we did without his backing, and now that Daihatsu have joined us, the competition can only get bigger and better."

The tour was originally only for boys in Kent, but has grown so quickly that this year

| DAIHATSU JUNIOR TOUR DATES           |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>NATIONAL TOUR</b>                 |                                  |
| April 13: East Sussex National       | July 1: Slaley Hall              |
| May 6: Turnberry                     | July 14: Wyndyke Hall            |
| June 30: Hillside                    | August 5: Seaton Course          |
| July 7: Colingrove Park              | August 22: Portliff              |
| August 4: Royal Birkdale             | September 15: The Warwickshire   |
| August 18: The London Club           | October 30: Pannal               |
| August 22: Royal Lytham and St Annes |                                  |
| September 16: Chart Hills            |                                  |
| October 6: St Piers                  |                                  |
| October 27: Forest of Ardern         |                                  |
| <b>SOUTHERN TOUR</b>                 |                                  |
| April 20: Marnings Heath             | July 7: Hove                     |
| May 22: Fostells                     | August 5: Chart Hills            |
| July 7: Hove                         | August 8: Barnham Broom          |
| August 5: Chart Hills                | August 22: Moor Park             |
| August 8: Barnham Broom              | September 15: Royal Cinque Ports |
| August 22: Moor Park                 | October 29: The Buckinghamshire  |
| September 15: Royal Cinque Ports     |                                  |
| October 29: The Buckinghamshire      |                                  |
| <b>NORTHERN TOUR</b>                 |                                  |
| April 3: Mers                        |                                  |
| May 12: Royal Liverpool              |                                  |

there will be northern and southern competitions, which are intended, in time, to become springboards to a national tournament for the best players in what is confidently expected to be a healthily oversubscribed entry.

The only entry requirements are that players should have handicaps of nine or better, that they should be under 18 on January 1 of this year and that they should submit their entry forms by March 1. Springate believes that after this year there might have to be a qualifying competition, but for 1997 the fields of 72 for each event will be decided by a rigorous selection process.

There will be eight tournaments in both the northern and southern sections, with players having to take part in a minimum of six events, and ten in the national competition with a minimum commitment of seven appearances to produce end-of-season orders of merit. Dates have been chosen to avoid the leading amateur competitions and tournaments

will be held during school holidays, on bank holidays and at weekends.

"We felt it was important to provide a cushion to allow players to miss the odd event if they have to and still have a chance to qualify," Springate said. He will also be staging two invitational competitions for girls with an upper handicap limit of 18, and it is hoped that a tour will be launched for them next year.

The climax of the season will be the Tournament of Champions, in which the winners of all 26 events on the three tours will meet over 36 holes at Chart Hills on November 8 and 9, with all golf and accommodation expenses paid and matching clothing provided. The winner there, plus the winner of the national tour, will receive coaching at Leadbetter's world headquarters at Lake Nona, in Florida, and also have the opportunity to play some competitive golf in the United States.

The winner of that season-ending tournament will finish

1997 having trodden the fairways of some of the finest courses in the United Kingdom — Open Championship venues such as Turnberry, Royal Birkdale and Royal Lytham and St Annes are on the national tour rota.

John Hopkins, the golf correspondent of *The Times*, is an enthusiastic supporter of the venture. "I grew up playing junior golf in Gloucestershire and North Wales in the mid-Sixties," he said. "From my contemporaries in Gloucestershire came a full senior England international, several captains of the county team and numerous county players," he said.

"Similarly, the contributions made to Welsh golf by those with whom I played 30 years ago is enormous. Some of them played for Wales, some became leading lights in their own clubs and counties and others moved into the ranks of amateur administrators. I had great fun playing in junior matches and junior events which had been organised by far-sighted and hard-working people and I fully expect those who are brought to the junior game in the Nineties by the efforts of the Junior Golf Tour to experience similar benefits."

The competitions could not have had a better or more committed patron than Leadbetter. "The tours have been set up in such a way as to provide a real test for youngsters who believe they have the talent to go on and compete at a higher level in the future," he said. "I am thoroughly looking



Springate: driving force

forward to giving the winners tuition at Lake Nona."

Daihatsu, too, is throwing its weight behind the revamped competition that will bear its name. "It's great to be a major part of a genuinely new sponsorship initiative which doesn't come with the usual hangover of past sponsors," Paul Williams, chief executive officer of Daihatsu (UK), said.

"Like the Junior Golf Tour, Daihatsu will be expanding over the next three years, and the tour will help us to raise our brand profile throughout the UK. We'll be delighted if a future champion emerges as a result of the tour. If we can help them to achieve success, it will make us very happy."

### BALLROOM DANCING

## Hiltons resolve to remain best in the world

Ruth Gledhill talks to the British couple whose ambition is undimmed by years of success at the highest level of their sport

MARCUS and Karen Hilton are the world champions and will be remembered as one of the most outstanding couples in competitive ballroom dancing, but they were preparing for their first competition of the year last night with a determination to hold on to the impressive array of titles that they have held for up to seven years running.

At the Open UK championships in Bournemouth this week, the Hiltons, from Rochdale, aged 36 and 35 respectively, will take on their closest rivals, Luca Bareschi and Lorraine Barry, as well as Augusto Schiavo and Caterina Arzenon, of Italy, who are also snapping at their heels. Nevertheless, the odds are in the Hiltons' favour, for they have been working hard at their usual punishing training schedule at their studio in Streatham, south London.

The UK competition, which starts on Wednesday, comes weeks before the ballroom dancing world learns whether it has been granted full recognition as an Olympic sport, after gaining provisional recognition nearly two years ago. Professionals are already seeking sponsorship and funding for youngsters in an attempt to maintain Britain's supremacy at the sport, since Olympic recognition looks likely.

As amateurs, the Hiltons were an example of a couple who were fortunate to receive the support of their local council, which gave them grants to help them to compete, and the backing of their MP, then Sir Cyril Smith.

Coaches today are concerned that too few amateurs receive similar support and that valuable talent is being lost just at the time when it is most needed, due to the strict rules that prevent amateurs from teaching or earning money from dancing in this country.

Since forming their partnership in 1978, the Hiltons have taken the Open British championship five times, the world championship seven times and the European championship five times. Usually, because few dancers succeed in mastering both modern — or "standard" — and Latin disciplines, they were the world Latin American champions as amateurs and took the world ten-dance title, the dance equivalent of the decaathlon, in 1986 as professionals.

"We have been champions for so long, everybody is there to beat us," Marcus Hilton said. They stay at the top by never taking their supremacy for granted and by constantly working to eradicate faults in their dancing.

Hilton said: "We treat every competition like a battle. Every one is different. We work out a game-plan for each one and size up the floor, the audience, the music."

"At the UK this week, the room will be bright, with a sports hall effect. There are no stalls, but tiered seating facing the stage, so we have to choreograph what we do. For us, it is the first competition of the year, so we have to start with a bang."

The Hiltons, who have just recovered from flu and are spending six hours in the studio training and having lessons each day, did not compete in the Star Ball earlier this year, which was won by Bareschi and Barry, but they intend to go on to dance in Japan next month, to do the European and Open British competitions in May, the International in October, the US Open in September and the world championships at Blackpool in November.

"I am always looking over my shoulder and Karen is too, but we mustn't let that outweigh the fact that we have to improve all the time. We have so much to improve on that we are also competing against ourselves," Marcus Hilton said.

He said dancing was a sport and required extreme fitness and suppleness. "I feel it is an artistic sport. We need to be fit to do what we do, but it is not just about fitness. You have to be artistic in the presentation, timing and musicality. We warm up and warm down a lot, but we are also careful not to build up muscles in the wrong places, or extra pounds of flesh."

## Johnson aims to build on his tour de force

FOR the Junior Golf Tour national champion of last year, the competition provided a bonus that he thought was never going to come his way. Karl Johnson was already a highly regarded player in his home county of Oxfordshire, but never believed he would be given the chance to test his mettle against leading young golfers in other parts of the country. The Junior Golf Tour provided him with that chance.

"It meant a lot to me," Johnson said at the launch of the Daihatsu-backed tour. "I was able to play on some great golf courses and the chance to play against different players gave me experience I had not expected to get. Then to win the competition was a great bonus — and a nice surprise."

Johnson, a three-handicap member of Frilford Heath, will be defending his title this year — at 17, he is eligible for one more season of Junior Tour golf. He has a future in the professional game firmly in his sights, but is determined not to rush things. With nine GCSEs behind him, he is now taking a course

in sports studies and intends to stay in the amateur game for a season or two.

"It's my plan to play the amateur circuit full time for two or three years and supplement my income by taking a part-time job in the off-season," he said. "I'd like to be a professional, but I think it would be best for me to develop my game as an amateur before I think about that. The Junior Golf Tour has given me a good foundation for taking part in competitions against good players."

Johnson managed to fit his golf around his studies last season and played in all ten national tour events, winning once and sharing victory in two other tournaments. He is also the Oxfordshire junior champion and the Oxfordshire schools champion.

He took up the game when on holiday with his parents in Tenerife in 1991. "I went to the golf course with them, hit a few balls and discovered I liked the game," he said. "I had a lesson from the pro and it's gone on from there. If I eventually make it as a professional, I'll have a lot to thank the Junior Golf Tour for."



Johnson, the champion, has one more season on the tour

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**Entry Qualification (BOYS)**

1. The Junior Golf Tour is open to boys aged 12 to 17 years on January 1st of the year of the competition.

2. All entrants must be British born or born in the United Kingdom.

3. Entrants must be members of a golf club affiliated to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

4. Entrants must be under 18 years of age on January 1st of the year of the competition.

5. Entrants must be resident in the United Kingdom for at least 12 months prior to the start of the competition.

6. Entrants must be of good character and have no criminal record.

7. Entrants must be of good health and have no medical conditions which may affect their performance.

8. Entrants must be of good academic standing and have no disciplinary record.

9. Entrants must be of good financial standing and have no outstanding debts.

10. Entrants must be of good social standing and have no不良 record.

**Entry Qualification (GIRLS)**

1. The Junior Golf Tour is open to girls aged 12 to 17 years on January 1st of the year of the competition.

2. All entrants must be British born or born in the United Kingdom.

3. Entrants must be members of a golf club affiliated to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

4. Entrants must be under 18 years of age on January 1st of the year of the competition.

5. Entrants must be resident in the United Kingdom for at least 12 months prior to the start of the competition.

6. Entrants must be of good character and have no criminal record.

7. Entrants must be of good health and have no medical conditions which may affect their performance.

8. Entrants must be of good academic standing and have no disciplinary record.

9. Entrants must be of good financial standing and have no outstanding debts.

10. Entrants must be of good social standing and have no不良 record.

**Handicap Requirements**

1. All entrants must have a handicap of 9 or better on January 1st of the year of the competition.

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8. All entrants must have a handicap of 9 or better on January 1st of the year of the competition.

9. All entrants must have a handicap of 9 or better on January 1st of the year of the competition.

10. All entrants must have a handicap of 9 or better on January 1st of the year of the competition.

**Rules of Play**

1. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

2. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

3. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

4. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

5. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

6. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

7. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

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9. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.

10. The Junior Golf Tour is played over 36 holes on a standard golf course.



## SCHOOLS SPORT

as 10; Leigh Miners 20 West  
Outliner: Leigh East & East

**SCHOOLS SPORT**

Rugby union  
Bradford GS 16 Merchant Taylors; Crosby

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**DS** Sheffield 0 English Eagles Trophy  
North Kent 0 Croydon 1 English  
League Division 1  
English League Division 2  
7. London Counties Athletic Beachhead 2  
Aldershot 2 Brent 5 Newham 0 Merton  
London Colindale 2  
Town Trophy: Ipswich 1 South London 3  
Webster Shields Gloucester 3 Wolver-  
hampton 0  
Cup: Slough 1 Northam 5  
Cotton 0 Sutton 0  
Countries Cup: Woking 1 Swindon 4 Black  
Cap Croydon 1 Kingston 4 Hemsley  
2  
Covers Trophy: Hull 3 Chesham 2  
Mercury Trophy: Nottingham 1 North  
London 2

**DIAMOND CENTRE, Winghamborough**  
Midland English League  
Dorset (h) 1 Walsley (a) 6-2; P/W  
(eng) 1 h) Walsley (eng) 7-1  
Higgins (Scott) 3 h) Hendry (Scott) 6-2

**SWIMMING**

**SWANSEA:** Spreads British Grand  
Men: Freestyle 200m: 1 N Thorne (D)  
1:56.4  
100m: 1 N Thorne (D) 1:00.4  
(Swans) 1:54.27; 3 G Morgan (Swans)  
1:54.73 Breaststroke 200m: 1 P Hains  
(Swans) 2:10.1  
1500m: 3 R Nicholas (Swans) 2:26.4

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

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## HAYDOCK PARK

12.45.1, Harbour Island (3-1); 2, Nt. Chiriqui (14-3); 3, Tamarindale (15-1); Kariakela (15-1); 5, 14 n. Nt. Manella Darley, Queen 5-2 n. 14 n. Nt. Manella Darley, Tamarindale, Tamarindale.

1.19.1, Maitlandwood (8-1); 2, Dato Star (7-3); 3, Barney (5-4) n. 9 n.

1.25.1, Glabotcher (4-8) n.; 2, Spizana Mouni (1-3); 3, Lant Lanthano (10-1); 4 n. 9 n. Nt. Newbern (11-4); 2, Ribbles (15-1); 3, Shady Farm (7-1); 4, Corrine Bay 5-2 n. Nt. 10 Ch Siga.

3.55.1, Blue Flyer (30-1); 2, Sea Dora (15-2); 3, Apollo Star (20-1); Royal Cattle 5-2 n. 12 n. Nt.

round; replays: Leeds v Crystal Palace; Tottenham v Arsenal; Ipswich v

TELEVISION PREMIERSHIP: First of 1997

Exeter; Plymouth; Southampton; Ipswich; Cardiff; Carlisle v Sheffield; Ipswich v Bradford; Gillingham; Coventry v Aston Villa.

[illegible][illegible]

**RUGBY UNION**

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated.

HENSHING CUP: Fleet: Brive v Leicester.  
at Cardiff Arms Park.

MILNINGTON CUP: South round: Gloucester  
v Bristol (3.0); North round: Gloucester  
v Bath (3.0). Northern Cup v Coventry  
(3.0). Oriel v Sale (3.0). Bournemouth v  
Bathursts (2.15). Worcester v Macclesfield.

**RUGBY FOOTBALL**

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated.

SUNDERLAND: Ragsdale v Walsley tournament (6.15).

WALSLEY: Newcastle v Walsley (7.45).

GLASGOW: British championships (8.00).

**FUNDAY**

FA CUP: Fourth round: Newcastle  
v Nottingham Forest (1.30); Chelsea  
v Liverpool (4.10).

**RUGBY UNION**

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated.

WALSLEY: Newcastle v Walsley (2.30).

GLASGOW: British championships (8.00).

[illegible]

**BOWLS:** World indoor championships (in Preston).

**ICE HOCKEY:** Superleague final vs Nottingham P.D.; Manchester v Birmingham (6.0); Bromley v Newcastle (8.0); Cardiff v Sheffield (9.0).

**SNOOKER:** Royal Welsh tournament set Newport.

**GOLF:** British championships (in Manchester).

Oscar de la Hoya, left, of Mexico, jabs at Miguel Angel Gonzalez, his compatriot, during the successful defence of his World Boxing Council super-lightweight title in Las Vegas. De la Hoya won the bout on points

gh v Rushden & Di-  
v Bath, Macclesfield v

[illegible]

**FA CUP:** Fourth round - Newcastle  
Nottingham Forest (1,087) - Chelsea  
Liverpool (410).

**RUGBY UNION**  
100-kill 3.0 unless advised  
**FILKINGTON CUP:** Sixth round: Saracens  
v Wigan (3.05).

**FA CUP:** FIFTH-ROUND  
Fourth round - Leeds v Preston  
Second half: 12-10 (Preston)

**TOUR MATCH:** London Irish vs Otago  
SWALEC CUP: Newport v Cardiff (2.30).

**OTHER SPORT**

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# After seeing a women's rugby match Christian Dymond says England v Scotland will be a cracker



Although not the top flight of women's rugby, Blaydon Barracudas (in red) against Wharfedale saw some good tackling and fine handling skills. Points from penalties were conspicuous by their absence Photographs by Michael Scott

## A great way to spend a Sunday

If my experience is anything to go by, the women's rugby international between England and Scotland next weekend should be a cracker.

England women's team are the world champions and Scotland lost the fixture only 12-8 last year. The match takes place at Blackheath on Sunday and is preceded by a game between the two national women's A sides.

With England men's poor performance against Argentina still relatively fresh in my memory, I travelled to the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne to watch the women of Blaydon Barracudas entertain the might of Wharfedale.

This was by no means the top flight of women's rugby — Blaydon and Wharfedale are in the northern league of the third division — but both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and open way.

Blaydon Barracudas were also looking to improve their performance after their defeat in Yorkshire a few weeks before, and early evidence suggested enough bite to rattle the visitors. Scrummaging looked pretty solid, there was clean ball from the lineout and after five minutes Elizabeth Simpson, their nippy wing, should have gone over for a try but the final pass was way off target.

Gradually, though, Wharfedale got a grip on the game, their backs attacking with greater brio while their forwards seemed far more mobile around the pitch. By half-time they were leading 10-0. This increased to 20-0 before Blaydon replied with their solitary try. This galvanised them but only briefly, and, as they ran out of steam, so Wharfedale ran them ragged, the final result being 46-8.

It did emerge later that Blaydon had been decimated by sickness and had taken the field with two players who had never before experienced a full game. Five of the eight Wharfedale tries were scored by one of the centres, which was indicative both of the way the match was played and of the way that women generally approach the game. Points from penalties were conspicuous by their absence.

The match certainly impressed Tom Sarginson, 17, one of about 30 spectators hugging the touchline. A rugby player who had never watched a women's game, he said: "It was extremely entertaining, much better than I thought it was going to be. A lot of the tackling was excellent and there were some good moves and great handling skills."

The 30 players on the pitch at Blaydon were some of the 12,000 to 15,000 women who now play rugby in the British Isles. In the past few years the game has grown from 12 teams in 1983 to about 270 clubs, some with two or three sides. Rules are the same as for men.

Rugby generally has a higher profile and the growth in the women's game owes a lot to that. There is also the fact that England women won the World Cup in 1994, as I was told by Rosie Golby, the president of the Rugby Foot-



ball Union for Women, the governing body for the game in England.

A player for 13 years, she turns out as scrum half or centre for Old Leamingtonians in Leamington Spa. "I play because it's a team sport and a contact sport and because I enjoy it," she said. "I can't kick, so when I do, everyone around me cheers."

The side trains twice a week. Blaydon Barracudas, formerly known as Northern Ladies, also trains twice a week. Tuesday night is for scrummaging, passing and practising set-piece moves; Wednesday evening is primarily for fitness.

Their 25-women squad ranges in age from a 17-year-old who is still at school to a 32-year-old mother of two. The captain and No 8 is Helen Greenwell, 28, one of three policewomen in the side. Many of the others are students. It is Greenwell's second season of rugby, although she had previously been a rower for ten years.

"I've always enjoyed watching the game, but a friend who started playing inspired me to take it up," she said. "Rugby's a good team sport and I think you can enjoy it at whatever level of fitness you are. It also makes for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon." Women's rugby is almost always played on a Sunday, otherwise there might be a clash of pitch and changing facilities with the men.

Three quarters of an hour before the kick-off against

Wharfedale, Blaydon Barracudas were out on the field going through leg and arm exercises with Andy Ellis, their physiotherapist. 20 minutes later, having been split up into backs and forwards, they rehearsed moves with Tom Gilmour and Rob Thomson, their coaches.

"Some of the squad are very fit," Ellis said. "Others have come to the game with a basic level of fitness but with a good degree of strength and determination which we hope to build on. Fitness sometimes takes second place to the learning of the game because rugby is new to them."

THE women who play rugby at Blaydon pay a £20 subscription for the season and a £150 match fee. The social side is strong with evenings out and dances at the extremely impressive new £1.1 million clubhouse.

In wider terms, women's rugby is organised in national leagues: first and second divisions (Saracens, Richmond, Wasps and Leeds being four of the strongest sides), a third division with four regional leagues (North, Midlands, South East and South West,

### HOW TO JOIN IN

and fourth and fifth divisions with eight regional leagues apiece.

There is a sixth division which has leagues for new clubs and there are also knock-out cup competitions. A national development officer, Nicola Ponsford, was appointed last September, this is apparently women's rugby's first salaried post.

Last season saw the first home nations' championship involving teams from

England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In March, after the 1997 championship, England will participate in the first women's seven-a-side tournament in Hong Kong.

For more information on women's rugby contact: 01635 278177.

For more information on Blaydon Barracudas contact: 0191-371 9901.

Blackheath on January 26: kick-off, noon; England v Scotland: kick-off 2pm. Tickets: £5.

### SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the defence are attempting a trump promotion, it is sometimes necessary for them to cash their side winners first. This example arose in the match between Turkey and Belgium, in the Women's Olympiad in October.

| Dealer South                                | Game all                                                                                                                                         | IMPs |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| ♠ A 9 3<br>♥ A Q J 9 7 2<br>♦ Q 9<br>♣ 10 9 | ♠ K 8 3<br>♥ K 10 5 4 3<br>♦ K 6 3 2<br>♣ N<br>W E<br>♠ 10 5<br>♥ 10 6 5<br>♦ 8 6 2<br>♣ A J 8 7 4<br>♠ K Q J 7 6 4 2<br>♥ 4<br>♦ A J 7<br>♣ Q 5 |      |

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ten of clubs

At both tables South attempted Four Spades against the lead of the ten of clubs. Each East played low, and declarer won the queen, but there the play diverged. The Belgian played a heart: West took her ace, and continued clubs, and now a third round of clubs promoted a second trump trick for West. Note incidentally that if South ruffs the third club with an honour, West must discard. If she over-ruffs, she no longer makes a second trump.

The Turkish declarer played the king of spades at trick two; the Belgian West took the ace and played a second club. In practice East overtook and continued with a low club; on which declarer discarded a losing heart; she made the contract when she guessed who had the queen of diamonds.

If East plays the ace of clubs on the third round of clubs, South can ruff high. Then she draws one more trump, and again makes the contract if she finds the queen of dia-

monds — her losing heart goes away on the king of clubs. The correct defence is for West to cash the ace of hearts when she wins the ace of spades. Then she continues with a second club, and now the trump promotion works.

The Macallan international pairs championship 1997, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, London later this week. Session times and prices: Wednesday, January 22, 5.30-11pm, £12.50; Thursday, January 23, noon-4pm £12.50; 5.30-11pm £12.50; all day, £30; Friday, January 24, 12.30-6.30pm £17.50; season ticket for all sessions £35. Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Information: 0181-878 5844.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

#### Adams ahead

Grandmaster Michael Adams, the Great Britain No 2, is engaged in a match against the top Chilean grandmaster Ivan Morovic in Santiago, Chile. After his relative setback at Hastings, Adams will be anxious to rehabilitate himself. Indeed, he got off to a good start by winning the first game.

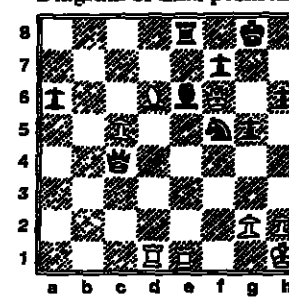
In a fashionable variation of the Sicilian Defence, Adams entered a complex middle-game and sacrificed a pawn in order to lay waste Black's camp through the firepower of the two white bishops. In the final position Black is material down with his king hopelessly vulnerable to the combined attack of the white queen and bishop.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Ivan Morovic  
Santiago, January 1997

#### Sicilian Defence

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1 e4    | c5   |
| 2 Nf3   | c6   |
| 3 d4    | cd4  |
| 4 Nc3   | Nf6  |
| 5 Ne3   | a6   |
| 6 f4    | e5   |
| 7 Nf3   | Nbd7 |
| 8 a4    | Bd7  |
| 9 Bc3   | 0-0  |
| 10 0-0  | ed4  |
| 11 Kh1  | Nd5  |
| 12 Bx4  | Bd7  |
| 13 Qd2  | Rd8  |
| 14 Rf1  | Ra8  |
| 15 a5   | h6   |
| 16 Bf1  | Bf8  |
| 17 e5   | de5  |
| 18 Nxe5 | Se6  |
| 19 Qf2  | Ncd7 |
| 20 Qf3  | Ne5  |
| 21 Se5  | Nd5  |
| 22 Bc3  | Rc5  |
| 23 Ng4  | Ra5  |
| 24 Rd1  | Qh4  |
| 25 Nd6  | Bxd6 |
| 26 Bxd6 | Qf6  |

#### Diagram of final position



#### Withdrawal symptoms

The Dutch tournament at Wijk aan Zee has been plagued by a series of withdrawals by its star players. First Vassily Ivanchuk withdrew to be replaced by Alex Yermolinsky. Now, Gata Kamsky, the world No 7, has also dropped out with his place being taken by the Spanish grandmaster Miguel Illescas. Nigel Short remains Britain's chance for a first prize.

#### Times book

*The Times Winning Moves 2* contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**HARUSPEX**  
a. A lorgnette  
b. The flycatcher  
c. A fortune teller

**KINCOB**  
a. Rich embroidery  
b. Corn on the cob  
c. Former pupil of King's

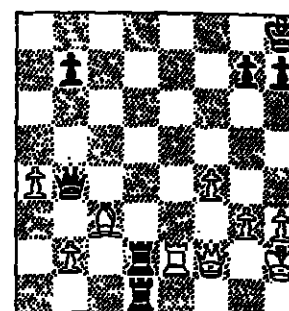
**HARATCH**  
a. Reed thatch  
b. Turkish poll tax  
c. The Lydian aspirate  
**HOGO**  
a. A pig call  
b. A card game  
c. A foul stink

Answers on page 44

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Schneider — Oll, Podolsk 1993. Black appears to have a few difficulties as his queen and rook are attacked and his back rank is weak. What is his strongest continuation?



Solution on page 44

Clean ball: both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and an open way



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THE TIMES

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All you need is four differently numbered tokens from those printed in *The Times* this week and the voucher, below right. Token one appears on the voucher. Simply collect another three differently numbered tokens and complete the details on the voucher. Present it with the tokens to your newsagent before Tuesday February 18. You will be entitled to one of the magazines, worth up to £2.50, free. Tokens will be printed every day this week until Saturday, January 25.

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|                               |       |                          |
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CHANGING TIMES



# Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| Company                    | Price   | Change | Yield | P/E   |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|
| <b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b> |         |        |       |       |
| Adnams Ltd                 | 180.00  | +1.00  | 4.5%  | 18.0  |
| Beck's & Co Ltd            | 120.00  | +0.50  | 3.5%  | 12.0  |
| Charles Heidsieck          | 150.00  | +0.20  | 4.0%  | 15.0  |
| Guinness Ltd               | 110.00  | +0.10  | 3.0%  | 11.0  |
| Heidsieck & Co             | 140.00  | +0.30  | 3.8%  | 14.0  |
| James Watson & Co          | 130.00  | +0.40  | 3.2%  | 13.0  |
| Johnnie Walker             | 160.00  | +0.60  | 4.2%  | 16.0  |
| Miller & Carter            | 170.00  | +0.70  | 4.8%  | 17.0  |
| Old Blend Distillers       | 190.00  | +0.80  | 5.0%  | 19.0  |
| Scott's Whisky             | 100.00  | +0.20  | 3.0%  | 10.0  |
| Seagram's 7                | 125.00  | +0.50  | 3.5%  | 12.5  |
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| Seagram's 50               | 145.00  | +0.70  | 3.7%  | 14.5  |
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| Seagram's 3025             | 1335.00 | +12.60 | 15.6% | 133.5 |
| Seagram's 3050             | 1345.00 | +12.70 | 15.7% | 134.5 |
| Seagram's 3075             | 1355.00 | +12.80 | 15.8% | 135.5 |
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| Seagram's 3150             | 1385.00 | +13.10 | 16.1% | 138.5 |
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| Seagram's 3275             | 1435.00 | +13.60 | 16.6% | 143.5 |
| Seagram's 3300             | 1445.00 | +13.70 | 16.7% | 144.5 |
| Seagram's 3325             | 1455.00 | +13.80 | 16.8% | 145.5 |
| Seagram's 3350             | 1465.00 | +13.90 | 16.9% | 146.5 |
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| Seagram's 3450             | 1505.00 | +14.30 | 17.3% | 150.5 |
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| Seagram's 3500             | 1525.00 | +14.50 | 17.5% | 152.5 |
| Seagram's 3525             | 1535.00 | +14.60 | 17.6% | 153.5 |
| Seagram's 3550             | 1545.00 | +14.70 | 17.7% | 154.5 |
| Seagram's 3575             | 1555.00 | +14.80 | 17.8% | 155.5 |
| Seagram's 3600             | 1565.00 | +14.90 | 17.9% | 156.5 |
| Seagram's 3625             | 1575.00 | +15.00 | 18.0% | 157.5 |
| Seagram's 3650             | 1585.00 | +15.10 | 18.1% | 158.5 |
| Seagram's 3675             | 1595.00 | +15.20 | 18.2% | 159.5 |
| Seagram's 3700             | 1605.00 | +15.30 | 18.3% | 160.5 |
| Seagram's 3725             | 1615.00 | +15.40 | 18.4% | 161.5 |
| Seagram's 3750             | 1625.00 | +15.50 | 18.5% | 162.5 |
| Seagram's 3775             | 1635.00 | +15.60 | 18.6% | 163.5 |
| Seagram's 3800             | 1645.00 | +15.70 | 18.7% | 164.5 |
| Seagram's 3825             | 1655.00 | +15.80 | 18.8% | 165.5 |
| Seagram's 3850             | 1665.00 | +15.90 | 18.9% | 166.5 |
| Seagram's 3875             | 1675.00 | +16.00 | 19.0% | 167.5 |
| Seagram's 3900             | 1685.00 | +16.10 | 19.1% | 168.5 |
| Seagram's 3925             | 1695.00 | +16.20 | 19.2% | 169.5 |
| Seagram's 3950             | 1705.00 | +16.30 | 19.3% | 170.5 |
| Seagram's 3975             | 1715.00 | +16.40 | 19.4% | 171.5 |
| Seagram's 4000             | 1725.00 | +16.50 | 19.5% | 172.5 |
| Seagram's 4025             | 1735.00 | +16.60 | 19.6% | 173.5 |
| Seagram's 4050             | 1745.00 | +16.70 | 19.7% | 174.5 |
| Seagram's 4075             | 1755.00 | +16.80 | 19.8% | 175.5 |
| Seagram's 4100             | 1765.00 | +16.90 | 19.9% | 176.5 |
| Seagram's 4125             | 1775.00 | +17.00 | 20.0% | 177.5 |
| Seagram's 4150             | 1785.00 | +17.10 | 20.1% | 178.5 |
| Seagram's 4175             | 1795.00 | +17.20 | 20.2% | 179.5 |
| Seagram's 4200             | 1805.00 | +17.30 | 20.3% | 180.5 |
| Seagram's 4225             | 1815.00 | +17.40 | 20.4% | 181.5 |
| Seagram's 4250             | 1825.00 | +17.50 | 20.5% | 182.5 |
| Seagram's 4275             | 1835.00 | +17.60 | 20.6% | 183.5 |
| Seagram's 4300             | 1845.00 | +17.70 | 20.7% | 184.5 |
| Seagram's 4325             | 1855.00 | +17.80 | 20.8% | 185.5 |
| Seagram's 4350             | 1865.00 | +17.90 | 20.9% | 186.5 |
| Seagram's 4375             | 1875.00 | +18.00 | 21.0% | 187.5 |
| Seagram's 4400             | 1885.00 | +18.10 | 21.1% | 188.5 |
| Seagram's 4425             | 1895.00 | +18.20 | 21.2% | 189.5 |
| Seagram's 4450             | 1905.00 | +18.30 | 21.3% | 190.5 |
| Seagram's 4475             | 1915.00 | +18.40 | 21.4% | 191.5 |
| Seagram's 4500             | 1925.00 | +18.50 | 21.5% | 192.5 |
| Seagram's 4525             | 1935.00 | +18.60 | 21.6% | 193.5 |
| Seagram's 4550             | 1945.00 | +18.70 | 21.7% | 194.5 |
| Seagram's 4575             | 1955.00 | +18.80 | 21.8% | 195.5 |
| Seagram's 4600             | 1965.00 | +18.90 | 21.9% | 196.5 |
| Seagram's 4625             | 1975.00 | +19.00 | 22.0% | 197.5 |
| Seagram's 4650             | 1985.00 | +19.10 | 22.1% | 198.5 |
| Seagram's 4675             | 1995.00 | +19.20 | 22.2% | 199.5 |
| Seagram's 4700             | 2005.00 | +19.30 | 22.3% | 200.5 |
| Seagram's 4725             | 2015.00 | +19.40 | 22.4% | 201.5 |
| Seagram's 4750             | 2025.00 | +19.50 | 22.5% | 202.5 |
| Seagram's 4775             | 2035.00 | +19.60 | 22.6% | 203.5 |
| Seagram's 4800             | 2045.00 | +19.70 | 22.7% | 204.5 |
| Seagram's 4825             | 2055.00 | +19.80 | 22.8% | 205.5 |
| Seagram's 4850             | 2065.00 | +19.90 | 22.9% | 206.5 |
| Seagram's 4875             | 2075.00 | +20.00 | 23.0% | 207.5 |
| Seagram's 4900             | 2085.00 | +20.10 | 23.1% | 208.5 |
| Seagram's 4925             | 2095.00 | +20.20 | 23.2% | 209.5 |



RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Abtrust Scotland Investment, Budgets, Heritage Bathrooms, Majestic Wines, Mite Group. Final: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK vehicle output (December), UK construction trade survey, Bank of France money market lender, Bank of France discount T-bill auction, EU agriculture ministers council (until tomorrow).

TOMORROW

Interims: Barbour Index, China Investment Trust, Consolidated Murchison, Daejan Holdings, Fletcher King, Randalston, UK Gold Mining, Somerfield. Final: Shandwick International. Economic statistics: UK construction orders (November), UK provisional M4 (December), UK British Bankers' Association end-December monthly statement, UK building societies monthly figures (December), UK CBI quarterly industrial trends survey, Bank of England to announce oil auction details for January 28-30, BTM/Schroder weekly US chain store sales report, Johnson Redwood weekly US chain store sales report, Bundesbank calls for report, US Fed Chairman's speech on economy to Senate budget committee, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills and two-year treasury notes, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills and inflation-indexed ten-year notes.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Mennora Abbey, Final: Shant Group, Watson & Partners, Economic statistics: UK retail sales (December), French industrial production (November), Bundesbank weekly report, US Treasury budget committee, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills and inflation-indexed ten-year notes.

THURSDAY

Interims: Portland Group, William Ramsom, Final: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK British Chambers of Commerce economic survey (Q4), Japan trade surplus (December), French household consumption (December), Bundesbank central council policy meeting, Bank of France money market lender.

FRIDAY

Interims: Mashead Insurance, WF Electrical, Final: Albion. Economic statistics: none scheduled. Trading statement: J Sainsbury.

SUNDAY TIPS

Independent On Sunday: Buy Oxford Medical, Cirqual, Silvermines, Pressac: Hold Rentokil Initial: Sell Stanford Rock, Lomrho. Observer: Buy Tesco, Sainsbury, Sunday Telegraph: Buy Guinness, Stanford Rock, Jarvis, Goldsmiths, First Leisure: Sell Tottenham Hotspur. Sunday Times: Buy Medeva, Sell Dixons, Kewill Systems. Mail On Sunday: Buy Cruden Bay, Reed Intl, Goodwin.

COMPANIES



# Tesco stays ahead in store wars



David Sainsbury, chairman of the food retailer, heading for a second profits setback

BRITAIN'S supermarket chains will be in the spotlight this week, with Christmas trading statements from Tesco and J Sainsbury, and financial results from Budgets and Somerfield, which will give investors an insight into the impact of the price war that is raging in the shopping aisles and supermarket petrol stations.

**TESCO:** The market leader is likely to have consolidated its position when it announces its trading update later today. It appears that the group has enjoyed the best trading conditions of the four major players in the run-up to Christmas. Nick Bubb, retail analyst at MeesPeirson, is looking for a 7 per cent increase in like-for-like sales, excluding petrol sales.

Tesco is the biggest of the petrol retailers and will have benefited the most from any easing of the price war.

Margins will be no worse than stable, although the investment committed to the group's loyalty card makes the job of forecasting margins more difficult. For the full year brokers are looking for Tesco to raise pre-tax profits from £681 million to £745 million.

**J SAINSBURY:** A different picture is likely to be painted by Britain's second-biggest food retailer on Friday. Like-for-like sales are expected to have grown 4 per cent, with the group investing heavily in its own loyalty cards, which will again muddy the water as far as margins are concerned. No doubt Sainsbury will have made every effort to recover lost ground on Tesco,

although it is doubtful whether the retailer has been able to close the gap.

In the event, the group is expected to suffer its second consecutive profits setback in the current year, with brokers pencilling in profits of around

£700 million, against £764 million last time.

**SOMERFIELD:** Tomorrow's half-year figures from Somerfield will be the first since the company launched itself on the stock market back in

July. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting maiden pre-tax profits of £54.5 million, with a net dividend of 3.36p. NatWest is confident that the group's policy of closing the profitability gap between its main competitors is on track.

as will be underlined by the results.

In spite of this, the group is likely to record a drop in the like-for-like sales growth of 3.3 per cent recorded at the time of the flotation. This is not a reflection on its trading performance, rather a series of outside factors such as lower inflation and the disruption to trading caused by its conversion of 67 stores to the Somerfield brand.

Improved efficiency and increased cost savings suggest an improvement in operating margins, from 2.82 per cent last time to 3.37 per cent. For the full year, NatWest is forecasting pre-tax profits of £103 million and a total dividend of 10.2p net.

**BUDGENS:** The group is continuing to experience intense competition from its bigger rivals, and its half-year figures later today are likely to reveal further pressure on margins.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at around £5 million, compared with £4.3 million for the corresponding period, with earnings per share 10 pence ahead at 2.3p. Shareholders can look forward to an 11 per cent rise, to 0.39p, in the half-year payout.

At its last annual meeting the group reported a rise of 4.5 per cent in like-for-like sales in the first 18 weeks after the April year end. Its performance will have been enhanced by its new Fresh & Easy stores format and the acquisition of an 11,000-sq ft store in London. However, the increased investment is likely to take its toll on margins.

# Share boom for resources in Australia

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

RESOURCE stocks in Australia are booming amid predictions that the sector's performance will far outpace the rest of the country's stock market in 1997.

New-found enthusiasm for resource shares sent the Australian all-ordinary index soaring through 2,400 for the first time, to end 1996 at a high of 2,424.60. The index has since edged up further, ending last week at 2,435.5.

Australian analysts say that investors are scrambling to jump aboard the resource train for three main reasons: the prospect of a big step-up in exploration activity in 1997; the likelihood of a sharp rise in mineral prices; and the chance of a much stronger world economy this year.

The fact that Australia's industrial sector is widely believed to be going nowhere over the next few months has only added to the appeal. A survey of the country's ten leading broking firms reveals that the resources sector is expected to gain 8 per cent over the year, compared with a 4 per cent gain for industrial stocks.

Ray Chantry, director of minerals at First Pacific, the broker, said: "I can't remember a time when there's been a more exciting period than the one we're going into. There's a huge force behind exploration right now, with the three or four major companies spending large sums of money."

Another analyst says expansions and new projects will be the key to 1997: "The big opportunities we see in

that area are in the diversified resources stocks such as BHP, North, RTZ-CRA and to some extent MIM. It is the new projects that each has got that generate sustained earnings."

Australia's gold sector has enjoyed a frenzy of its own after a surprise discovery in the largely unexplored Gawler Craton region in South Australia by Helix, a junior exploration company. News of strong drilling results drove Helix shares from 45 cents to A\$4.15 in a few days and has led to a mad rush among investors for shares in other exploration companies with land in the region. Robin Widdup, head of mining research at JB Were and Son, the broker, said: "These discoveries in the Gawler Craton are equivalent to finding a whole new country inside of Australia. This is the hottest place around, including internationally."

The prospect of rising mineral prices is also whetting appetites for resource stocks. JB Were, for example, forecast a 50 per cent jump in the price of nickel to US\$4.45 and a 30 per cent rise in the zinc price to 61 cents in the coming year.

More cynical voices say the market's sudden enthusiasm for resource stocks has less to do with fundamentals and more to do with the fact that it is the start of a brand new year. Says one analyst: "People tend to be more optimistic at the start of a new year. January's always good for resources stocks, I can't remember a bad one."

# Pointers to the Chancellor's actions over interest rates

There are a number of key economic figures that will help the financial markets to form a view on whether the Chancellor was right to leave interest rates unchanged last week and whether he will now get away with stable rates right up until the election, as many City economists have concluded.

The first important clutch of releases comes tomorrow, with December figures for M4 money supply as well as the latest lending figures from banks and building

societies. M4 is expected to have risen 0.7 per cent in the month, according to a consensus of market expectations compiled by MMS International.

That would leave annual growth in M4 unchanged at 10.8 per cent. The M4 lending component of the money supply is forecast to show a slight deceleration from November's figure. Overall, these statistics are predicted to show that growth in credit and broad money remains robust.

Also released on Tuesday is the latest

industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which will be of particular interest after the shock fall in manufacturing activity reported recently.

This is followed on Wednesday by December figures for retail sales, which will give the official version of the key Christmas shopping season. The consensus

of market forecasts is for a modest rise of 0.3 per cent in retail sales volumes, compared with November's increase of 0.7 per cent.

The caution of these forecasts comes after rather disappointing evidence on December sales from the CBI and the British Retail Consortium.

Outside Britain, the focus will fall on Germany, where the Bundesbank is launching its Thursday official statement, renewing speculation about a possible drop in German interest rates in the next few

months. The week will see publication of the latest M3 money supply figures, which should show a deceleration in growth. An IFO survey of economic activity is also expected.

There will also be some interest in tomorrow's testimony on the economy by the Senate Budget Committee by Greenspan, the Federal Reserve

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| 5.40% net         | 5.30% net         | 5.10% net         |
| £100,000-£249,999 | £25,000-£99,999   | £5,000-£24,999    |
| 6.250% gross      | 6.000% gross      | 5.875% gross      |
| 5.00% net         | 4.80% net         | 4.70% net         |

GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable not taking account of the deduction of income tax as the holder pays. NET RATE is the rate which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. The Tax Deduction Scheme for Interest (TDS) may vary from time to time and is subject to change. Availability is limited. Further details available on request.



# Bazaar way to do business fulfils Eastern promise

The rise of the new retail emperors is charted by Carl Mortished

On the edge of the Taklimakan desert in the Chinese province of Xinjiang there is a town called Kashgar. A dusty, unattractive place, cursed with some vile Chinese concrete bunker buildings, Kashgar was once important. For thousands of years it was an oasis and trading post; caravans from the West brought gold, wool, precious stones and glass. These were exchanged for goods arriving from the East: furs, lacquer, ceramics, weapons and, of course, silk.

Like every great bazaar or shopping centre, the success of Kashgar was its location, linking Samarkand and routes to Europe with China to the east and India to the south. In the jargon of today's retailers, Kashgar had a high footfall and was on a caravan route, or in today's language, a motorway. In Britain, there is disagreement about whether we are in a retail boom. Shopkeepers report mixed results. But if there is still gloom among the traders of cloth and leather, the owners of the bazaars have become the new retailing emperors. Shopping centres, the concrete and glass blocks that house the silk and leather merchants are fetching enormous prices and their owners are becoming very rich. The shares of shopping centre owners have soared — in the space of a year, Capital Shopping Centres, which owns Lakeside in Essex and the Metro Centre in Gateshead, has risen from 216p to 380p. Chelmsfield, which owns the Merry Hill centre in Dudley, is up more than 80 per cent.

Owners of retail bazaars are now worth much more than the net value of the underlying buildings. Every sale of a shopping centre brings a new benchmark in valuation. This month, Marks & Spencer put a tender-box under the market, buying the Gyle centre in Edinburgh for £122 million. M&S had a trump card, a pre-emption right on the centre and whisked the property from under the noses of Universities Superannuation Fund. The bids reflected rents of £55 per sq ft for Zone A, the first 30 feet of a retail unit. But, according to Peter Smolka, investment partner at Hillier Parker, which sold the centre for Edinburgh City Council, the bidders were factoring in substantial rental growth. "My own opinion is that they must have been working on the basis of a £130 Zone A."



The Lakeside centre in Essex has helped to boost the share price of its owners



Success at the Metro Centre reflects the popularity of the new shopping outlets

Why should rents rise so much when retailers are still fighting for every customer? To answer the question, it is worth thinking again about bazaars. In the 1970s and

1980s, middle-class England fled from cities to suburbs and retailers followed them. Shoppers liked the huge malls on motorways and retailers liked the captive audiences. So busy were the shops that property developers confidently hooked retailers on turnover rents, linking the cost of the floorspace to the money flow-

ing into the tills. While the bazaars on the motorways flourished, the town centres died for want of custom. With such a profusion of goods available in one place, shoppers saw no reason to traipse down the high street. Decay set in and the townsfolk demanded an end to the construction of more bazaars. The

Government responded and a new planning guideline, PPG6, virtually rules out more shopping centres on Britain's caravan routes.

For those already being built, such as Trafford Park near Manchester, or the 1.6 million sq ft Bluewater Park in Kent, the prohibition is good news. Less competition means a shortage of centres for retailers seeking space and investors seeking a home for their money. Even while shopkeepers struggle, rents in good centres rise. As in all bazaars, successful traders attract imitators and the competition for good locations is intense. The Gyle centre has 100 retailers knocking at its door.

Institutions are again interested in property after several years of suspicion bred of the last property crash. Funds, flush with cash, can contemplate spending more than £100 million on a single asset, shrugging off any thought of risk with the knowledge that the income from a single shopping centre really comprises more than 100 incomes from separate traders.

For the merchants sipping tea in their offices in the souk, property is becoming an issue. Soaring rents pose a threat to profit margins and could even raise concerns about cashflow should trading turn down as it did in the last recession. The richest of them have responded by buying up their premises where they can. Hence the purchase of the Gyle, where M&S has bought the 300,000 sq ft centre to secure its position. Other retailers are buying property, including Carpentier and Burton Group, which last year purchased a flagship store at Oxford Circus in London.

In Southampton, the bidding is in progress for a huge centre shopping centre project owned by Imry, the company that was shuffled into the Barclays Bank vaults in the last property crash. Barclays is now selling the company and at least three companies, CSC, Chelmsfield and British Land are eyeing up the Southampton asset.

Could shopping centres last as long as the market in Kashgar or the covered bazaar in Istanbul? Many were built in the 1980s and over the next few years will begin to look tired. Lacking the pedigree of 2,000 years of trading, Britain's bazaars need glitz and redits to keep the loyalty of shoppers and those retailers who choose to buy their roof may find the investment goes far beyond the initial hefty outlay. However, there is no shortage of adventurers — the silk route traders risked more than their money bringing cloth to the market. If the location is right, some trader will always set up his stall.

Frank le Duc on the regional press

## The press barons who are proud to be provincial

Who could possibly want to buy a dying business — one that some people doubt will survive for much longer than a decade? A business such as local newspapers.

The sector is breathing its last, according to some sceptics, and is about to be supplanted by new media gods, such as the Internet, electronic publishing and the proliferation of local radio and TV stations.

If actions speak louder than words, sceptics can point to the traditional regional press barons. Some plundered the collection plate and left titles in the graveyard.

Hours after Westminster Press was sold, Frank Barlow, then managing director of Pearson, the vendor, called WP "a domestic business in long-term decline".

This was no distress sale. WP made a £25 million operating profit from sales of £143 million in the previous year, and, according to Mr Barlow, had "probably the highest trading margins in the industry".

Was he right to sell? If the judgment of the media sector's high priests is any guide, it would seem so. The media is away from old-fashioned local papers and towards specialist magazines, TV, radio and new media. The Internet is fashionable, if not yet a profitable method of publishing.

Pearson sold WP within months of Enap's exit from the sector, not on the heels of disposals by Reed and The Thomson Corporation. The long-term commitment of United News & Media, another leading regional publisher, is doubted by some observers. Of the top five regional publishers two years ago, only Northcliffe, part of Daily Mail and General Trust, seems truly committed to remaining a significant force in the sector.

Alec Davidson, Northcliffe's managing director, said: "We happen to believe there is a long-term business called national and regional newspapers — thank God!"

"It may be a domestic business in a mature phase, but what we are seeking to do is to use that as a strength, both for its own long-term position and to develop new businesses out of it."

The new giants, such as Newsquest, Trinity and Johnston Press, are dedicated provincial publishers. Anthony de Larrinaga,

media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said the sector reached a watershed when Northcliffe bought the Nottingham Evening Post for £93 million two years ago. The Department of Trade and Industry overruled the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's objections.

A wave of buying and selling followed. The sector has seen its biggest change since the advent of free newspapers in the early Eighties. Mr de Larrinaga said publishers had suffered from duplicated costs in an industry that was too fragmented. The Nottingham deal sig-

Midland Independent Newspapers, is typical of the new breed of regional publishers. His core business consists of The Birmingham Post and Evening Mail, and the Coventry Evening Telegraph.

In the past few years it has launched Birmingham Live, a joint venture cable TV channel; it has started supplying news to radio stations taken on an exhibitions business, supporting and supported by specialist magazines; and it publishes on the Internet.

He said: "We are an information business. It would be very hard for someone to come in here and gather as much information as we can, both in editorial and advertising terms. They might as well come to us. We're interested in content, not in owning the tubes down which the information is squeezed."

Midland has attracted the attentions of Hollinger, owner of the Daily Telegraph. A deal could form the tail end of the "mad scramble" that Mr de Larrinaga believes has been prompted in part by the imminent general election.

The first stage is complete, he said. "The second stage will see infill acquisitions and title swaps." The buying and selling continues — if not on the same scale as the WP deal. Venture capitalists, who look for good growth and strong cashflow, have kept faith with the sector.

After TV, the regional press still attracts more advertising spending than any other medium — including national newspapers.

The long-term decline that Mr Barlow described casts quite a shadow. Poor circulation is the most worrying symptom, indicative of the newspaper equivalent of scurvy — undernourished titles starved of investment. Although it accounts for a shrinking proportion of total revenues, it is telling: it lets advertisers know how many readers are prepared to buy a paper.

One of the first statements by Jim Brown, Newsquest's chief executive, after buying WP's titles was that they would be shown some tender loving care. He told the MMC that his acquisition needed investment and would receive it.

Perhaps the bankers and backers have more faith in the new generation of owner-managers and are looking to them to resurrect the sector and lead a renaissance.



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## Pensioners bonds lead Savings rush

By ANNE ASHWORTH, PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

RETAILERS may have had a quieter Christmas than they expected, but the month of December saw unusually high demand for National Savings accounts and bonds. Best sellers were pensioners' bonds, in which £123 million was invested during the month, and Premium Bonds, which attracted £98 million. Total sales of all National Savings products were £779 million. After repayments of £710 million and accrued interest of £124 million, the net contribution to Government funding was £193 million.

National Savings said that it was on target to raise £4.5 billion, the amount it is required to contribute to Government funding in the 1996/97 financial year. This sum was increased from £3 billion in the last Budget.

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Annual Report for the 12 months ended 31 December 1996

| CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT  | *Six months ended 31 Dec 1996 | *Six months ended 31 Dec 1995 | *Year ended 31 Dec 1996 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Revenue                        | 11,384                        | 8,899                         | 18,973                  |
| Income from investments        | 1,478                         | -                             | 6,531                   |
| Interest received              | 302                           | 89                            | 270                     |
| Sundry revenue                 | 4                             | -                             | 19                      |
|                                | 13,168                        | 8,988                         | 25,793                  |
| Expenditure                    | 2,086                         | 1,918                         | 4,029                   |
| Administration and general     | 1,511                         | 979                           | 2,137                   |
| Exploration                    | 775                           | 830                           | 2,250                   |
| Interest paid                  | -                             | 91                            | 19                      |
| Profit before tax              | 11,082                        | 7,051                         | 21,165                  |
| Tax                            | -                             | -                             | 21,165                  |
| Profit after tax               | 11,082                        | 7,051                         | 21,165                  |
| Earnings per share - cents     | 36                            | 25                            | 69                      |
| Dividends - per share - cents  | 17                            | 17                            | 52                      |
| Dividend cover - times covered | 2.1                           | 1.4                           | 1.3                     |

| CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET               | *At 31 Dec 1996 | *At 31 Dec 1995 | *At 30 June 1996 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Investments                              | 168,113         | 167,598         | 167,729          |
| Properties and ventures                  | 135             | 135             | 135              |
| Net current assets/liabilities           | 2,518           | 16,217          | 12,072           |
| Current assets                           | 8,874           | 3,442           | 8,818            |
| Cash                                     | 3,862           | -               | 3,810            |
| Other                                    | 1,512           | 3,442           | 2,782            |
| Less current liabilities                 | 5,856           | 9,600           | 11,790           |
| Bank loan                                | 5,856           | 6,309           | 11,790           |
| Other                                    | 5,856           | 6,309           | 11,790           |
| Share capital                            | 88,425          | 88,425          | 88,425           |
| Reserves                                 | 82,311          | 73,037          | 70,467           |
|                                          | 170,736         | 161,462         | 158,892          |
| Investments                              |                 |                 |                  |
| Lived                                    | 575,511         | 391,898         | 602,954          |
| Excess over book value                   | 108,678         | 225,610         | 437,501          |
| Book value                               | 166,837         | 166,288         | 165,453          |
| Unlisted                                 | 1,270           | 1,270           | 1,270            |
| Shares in issue unchanged at 30,655,211  |                 |                 |                  |
| Net assets (as valued) per share - cents | 1,991           | 1,087           | 2,166            |

\*Unaudited

NOTES:

1. Final Dividend. Dividend No. 91 of 35 cents per ordinary share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1996, absorbing R10 722 000, was declared on 30 July 1996 and paid on 11 September 1996.

2. Prospects. Good growth in earnings was achieved in the period under review largely as a result of improved dividends from the Group's gold mining investments and a surplus on the realisation of investments. If the gold price, however, remains at its present depressed level, earnings in the second half of the current financial year are expected to be lower.

## DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 92 of 17 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 7 February 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 26 February 1997 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 25 February 1997.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 8 February to 14 February 1997, inclusive.

75 Fox Street  
Johannesburg  
2001

On behalf of the board:  
J.G. Hepwood  
(Chairman)  
J.W.D. Dowling } Directors

17 January 1997



# Thameslink poised to enter the private sector network

**By RICHARD FOSTER**

**THAMESLINK**, the most lucrative of the seven remaining rail franchises, will pass into private hands this week, ending months of market speculation that has pushed the shares of the four bidders to record highs.

GB Railways, which this month doubled its value on its stock market debut, is joined by Virgin, Cowie Group and Go-Ahead in the race for London's main rail link.

Virgin, which two weeks ago took over the CrossCountry Line, has linked with ViGTR, the French transport company, for the bid.

Cowie, the transport group, has teamed up with Thameslink's existing management to form Greater London Railways, a new company in which Cowie has a 75 per cent stake. Cowie runs many London bus routes and plans to connect these services with Thameslink. It said: "We think that with two managements, one successful with trains and one successful with buses, we can improve services dramatically."



**All change: new operators for the Thameslink service will be chosen this week**

Go-Ahead runs an Oxford bus service as well as jointly operating the city's rail link with London.

While Thameslink is seen as the jewel of the remaining franchises, it is far from the

largest. InterCity South West took in £219 million in the year to March 31, against Thameslink's £76 million. However, the line has shown the fastest profit growth of any of the rail franchises, with a rise of 18 per

cent last year. Its service from Bedford to Brighton takes in the City of London and Gatwick airport. Until the franchise is awarded, the four bidding companies are keeping secret their plans for

running the line. But for the successful company, the opportunities that the franchise offers are tremendous, both for transportation and for the company's market value.

It is especially attractive because of a wide-ranging programme of improvements commissioned by the Government last February. New track is to be laid connecting 150 stations in the South East, linking Thameslink with the East Coast mainline, and reducing journey times significantly. A new platform will be built at London Bridge station and a low-level station at St Pancras.

However, its service is on course to be disrupted by the construction of a fast rail link for the Channel tunnel. Opraf said that it will cover any costs met by the disruption.

After the improvements, the greatest number of trains across London on the service will increase from six to 24 an hour in each direction. The plans were intended to relieve pressure on London's crowded Underground, leaving the line's new operators ideally placed to capture the sector.

## New moves due in fight for Conrail

**By A CORRESPONDENT**

**THE battle for one of America's biggest railroad companies is set to intensify this week after the rejection by shareholders in Conrail of a \$9.3 billion merger with CSX**

Norfolk Southern Corp., which has made a rival \$10.3 billion bid, will demand talks with Conrail to try to end a stalemate triggered by its shareholders' vote last Friday.

Conrail still insists its future lies in a merger with CSX and is likely to ask shareholders to vote again. David LeVan, Conrail chairman, said: "We have to get out and sell the value of

At least 53 per cent of outstanding Conrail shares were voted against exempting Conrail from a Pennsylvania law that would require CSX to pay all cash for it. A waiver would

have let CSX complete its \$110-a-share cash tender offer to lift its Conrail stake to 40 per cent, from 19.9 per cent, giving it effective control of Conrail. CSX aimed to offer stock for the rest of Conrail, taking the deal's

A Conrail/CSX agreement prohibits either side, should their pact fail, from merging with a third party until 1999.

## Loades opts to leave official list for AIM

**LOADES**, the producer of car prototypes, is to become the first company to leave the official list and join the Alternative Investment Market.

Under the new AIM rules, the company has given the Stock Exchange one month's notice of its plans to switch. But it has given no indication of the logic it sees behind the

Loades plans to give up its full listing, which it has had for 30 years, early next month. It is 87 per cent owned by the Loades family, chaired by Edward Loades and co-owned

After taking record orders from car manufacturers designing new models for the millennium, the company's shares have raced to a record

Trading was strong again on AIM last week, with the FT-SE AIM index gaining 16.8 points to close the week at 1,085.40 — its highest since the

Viewinn's was the highest climber last week, gaining 60p to close at 22 1/2 p. The company, which sells keypads that

provide hotel guests with access to a range of data, returned stronger than expected results on Wednesday. It has also secured a second contract to supply Internet services to the Hotel Inter-Continental in London.

Shares of La Senza, which owns a chain of lingerie shops across England, had their biggest dive since joining AIM last May. It said its new lingerie shops were taking

The shares lost 25½p over the week, to close at a new low of 102½p.

Shares of Multimedia, the CD-Rom supplier, halved from 35p to 18½ p after it gave a warning that competition from America was posing a long-term problem.

There were no new issues this week. Prospective new issues — some of which have been circling the market since October — have still given no indication when they intend to arrive.

FRASER NELSON

| 1996 |     |                   |       |          |       |     |      |      |                   |       |          |       |     | 1996 |      |                   |       |          |       |     |      |      |                   |       |          |       |     | 1996 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1996 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|-----|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----|------|------|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----|------|------|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----|------|------|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| High | Low | Mkt cap (million) | Price | Wtdy +/- | Yld % | P/E | High | Low  | Mkt cap (million) | Price | Wtdy +/- | Yld % | P/E | High | Low  | Mkt cap (million) | Price | Wtdy +/- | Yld % | P/E | High | Low  | Mkt cap (million) | Price | Wtdy +/- | Yld % | P/E |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1500 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1525 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1550 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1575 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1600 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1625 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1650 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1675 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1700 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1725 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1750 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1775 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1800 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1825 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1850 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1875 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1900 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1925 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1950 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1975 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2000 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2025 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2050 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2075 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2100 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2125 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2150 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2175 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2200 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2225 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2250 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2275 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2300 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2325 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2350 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2375 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2400 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2425 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2450 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2475 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2500 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2525 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2550 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2575 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2600 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2625 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2650 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2675 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2700 | 125 | 1250              | 454   | 125      | -14   | 4.1 | 11.3 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 | 2500 | 800               | 1500  | 250      | +112  | 2.0 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2725 | 125 |                   |       |          |       |     |      |      |                   |       |          |       |     |      |      |                   |       |          |       |     |      |      |                   |       |          |       |     |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| CONSOLIDATED<br>INCOME STATEMENT            |                         |                         |                        | CONSOLIDATED<br>BALANCE SHEET                  |                       |                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                             | *Six<br>months<br>ended | *Six<br>months<br>ended | Six<br>months<br>ended |                                                | *At<br>31 Dec<br>1996 | *At<br>31 Dec<br>1995 | At<br>30 June<br>1996 |
|                                             | 31 Dec<br>1996          | 31 Dec<br>1995          | 30 June<br>1996        |                                                | R000                  | R000                  | R000                  |
| Revenue                                     |                         |                         |                        | Investments .....                              | 40 288                | 40 024                | 40 288                |
| Income from investments .....               | 10 562                  | 10 147                  | 5 951                  | Net current assets .....                       | 18 966                | 11 834                | 12 733                |
| Surplus on realisation of investments ..... | 117                     | -                       | 162                    | Current assets .....                           | <u>23 864</u>         | <u>18 365</u>         | <u>18 449</u>         |
| Licences received .....                     | 919                     | 582                     | 808                    | Cash .....                                     | <u>13 880</u>         | <u>8 863</u>          | <u>12 725</u>         |
| Sundry .....                                | 11                      | 13                      | 10                     | Other .....                                    | <u>9 984</u>          | <u>9 602</u>          | <u>5 724</u>          |
|                                             | 11 609                  | 10 742                  | 7 411                  | Less current liabilities .....                 | <u>4 898</u>          | <u>6 611</u>          | <u>5 716</u>          |
| Expenditure .....                           | 689                     | 594                     | 725                    |                                                | <u>39 254</u>         | <u>31 878</u>         | <u>33 021</u>         |
| Administration and general .....            | <u>689</u>              | <u>594</u>              | <u>725</u>             | Share capital .....                            | 9 448                 | 9 448                 | 9 448                 |
| Profit before tax .....                     | 10 920                  | 10 148                  | 6 686                  | Reserves .....                                 | <u>49 806</u>         | <u>42 430</u>         | <u>43 371</u>         |
| Tax .....                                   | 89                      | (14)                    | 25                     |                                                | <u>59 254</u>         | <u>51 878</u>         | <u>53 021</u>         |
| Profit after tax .....                      | <u>10 831</u>           | <u>10 162</u>           | <u>6 661</u>           | Investments                                    |                       |                       |                       |
| Earnings per share - cents .....            | 59                      | 35                      | 36                     | Listed .....                                   | 91 761                | 73 561                | 82 318                |
| Dividends per share - cents .....           | 25                      | 35                      | 30                     | - Excess over book value .....                 | 67 998                | 50 022                | 58 518                |
| - absorbing - R000 .....                    | 4 598                   | 6 438                   | 5 318                  | - Book value .....                             | <u>23 803</u>         | <u>23 539</u>         | <u>23 801</u>         |
| - times covered .....                       | 2.4                     | 1.0                     | 1.2                    | Unlisted - Book value .....                    | <u>16 485</u>         | <u>16 485</u>         | <u>16 485</u>         |
|                                             |                         |                         |                        | Shares in issue unchanged at R 39 303 600      |                       |                       |                       |
|                                             |                         |                         |                        | Net assets (at valued) per share - cents ..... | <u>1 479</u>          | <u>1 395</u>          | <u>1 394</u>          |
| *Unaudited                                  |                         |                         |                        | *Unaudited                                     |                       |                       |                       |

| MARKET RATES    |           |            |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
|                 | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
| Australia \$    | 2.24      | 2.06       |
| Austria Sch     | 19.80     | 18.30      |
| Belgium Fr      | 58.08     | 58.78      |
| Canada C\$      | 2.361     | 2.19       |
| Cyprus Cyp£     | 0.833     | 0.773      |
| Denmark Kr      | 10.76     | 9.96       |
| Finland Mkk     | 8.55      | 7.90       |
| France F        | 9.42      | 8.72       |
| Germany Dm      | 2.83      | 2.62       |
| Greece Dr       | 434       | 408        |
| Hong Kong \$    | 13.58     | 12.58      |
| Italy Lire      | 2708      | 2500       |
| Ireland Pt      | 1.07      | 0.99       |
| Israel Shk      | 3.75      | 5.10       |
| Japan Yen       | 2708      | 2500       |
| Japan Yen       | 209.50    | 193.90     |
| Malta           | 0.654     | 0.599      |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.154     | 2.924      |
| New Zealand \$  | 2.51      | 2.29       |
| Norway Kr       | 11.18     | 10.38      |
| Portugal Esc    | 277.50    | 259.00     |
| S Africa Rd     | 8.40      | 7.60       |
| Spain Ptas      | 230.50    | 217.50     |
| Sweden Kr       | 12.29     | 11.49      |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.44      | 2.28       |
| Turkey Lira     | 186950    | 183000     |
| USA \$          | 1.771     | 1.841      |

**WORD-WALKS**

Answers from page 39

**HARUSPEX**

(a) One of a class of Roman soothsayers, of Etruscan origin, who performed divination by inspection of the entrails of victims, and in other ways. The root appears in Sanskrit *hird* entrails — the Latin suffix *spex* beholding. Their predictions were as accurate as those of their epigoni: economists, fortune tellers and other newspaper columnists. Froude, *Caesar*, 1879: "Am I to be frightened," he said, in answer to some report of the haruspices, "because a sheep is without a heart?"

**KINCOB**

(a) A rich Indian stuff, embroidered with gold or silver. Also a piece or variety of this. An adaptation of the Urdu (Persian) *kimkhāb*. "We had glorious plunder, shawls, silks, satins, kincoobs, money &c."

**HARATCH**

(b) The poll-tax once levied by the Turks on their Christian subjects. The same as *cunuch*. Byron, note to *The Bride of Abydos*: "Rayahs — all who pay the capitation tax, called the Haratch."

**HOGO**

(a) High or putrescent flavour; an offensive taste or smell; a stench or stink. Also a high or piquant flavour; a stich. An English fry at the French *haut goût* high savour or flavour. "His Arne-pits gave a stronger hogo."

What made our  
primary schools the  
way they are?

The 1967 Plowden Report is best known for advocating "progressive" or "child-centred" teaching methods.

This Friday's Primary Update in The Times Educational Supplement looks at Plowden's influence on education, its surprising and forward looking recommendations and what it means today. We look at issues including: teaching methods, child development and social conditions.



**BY MARTIN BARROW**

The house price recovery continues to rescue more households from negative equity, according to the Woolwich Building Society. Those owing more on their mortgages than the value of their homes dropped by 755,000 in 1996 to 405,000, the lowest level since the first half of 1990.

The largest falls were in Greater London and the South East, with declines of 135,000 and 190,000 respectively.



**Chase: landmark deal**

Ruhrigas is one of the largest gas importers in the world. Its primary activity is associated with gas purchasing, transmission, storage and sales, with an annual gas sendout amounting to around 60 billion cubic metres.



**By ALASDAIR MURRAY**

(CCSB) but is believed to have concluded that the deal will make no fundamental difference to the bottling market. Coca-Cola company is also selling its 49 per cent stake in the venture to Coca-Cola Enterprises. Richard Branson, of Virgin, has announced his intention to pursue a separate complaint about CCSB's discounting policies.

**BY ADAM FRESCO**

Callaway extracted the shafts and flattened the club heads before selling them to a reprocessing firm that will melt down the metal. The money will go to a golf charity.

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

**THE INTREPRE**  
Montrose House, Cl

Building and construction profitability remained weakest, falling from 1.92 per cent to 1.58 per cent. Other weak performing sectors included print, paper and packaging (profitability down from 14.6 per cent to 12.9 per cent) and breweries (return on capital 10.9 per cent against 12 per cent).

**BY OLIVER AUGUST**

A KPMG survey published today says that inward investment reached a record high last year. Sales of UK companies to foreign buyers rose from \$36.3 billion to \$38.5 billion. Foreign takeovers of UK companies in 1996 exceeded the total for all other EU countries combined.

**"When TWA had to cut back by 10 per cent they found the cost of redundancies so prohibitive abroad, they bounced all the cuts to London."**

Fears over the downside of inward investment have also

**By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY**

However, the society was critical of selective training. Andrew Forrest, human resources director, said: "Employees who feel undervalued as second class citizens will not be as committed to their work or deliver the sort of high performance employers want from them."

Overall training as a share of company turnover rose 12 per cent. But an effort to tackle the costs of training meant that spending per capita fell to £370 from £384. Although training costs are often high more employers are now grouping together to block-buy training to reduce the expense.

Tel: 01932 570265, Fax: 01932 566703.

# INVITATION TO TENDER

|                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Notification of successful tender | By 17 February 1987    |
| Execution of Supply Agreement     | Immediately thereafter |
| Payment of Supply                 | 1 March 1987           |

| CONSOLIDATED<br>BALANCE SHEET                 | 'At           | 'At           | 'At           |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                               | 31 Dec        | 31 Dec        | 31 Jan        |
|                                               | 1996          | 1995          | 1996          |
|                                               | R000          | R000          | R000          |
| Fixed assets.....                             | 67 255        | 66 727        | 67 456        |
| Investments.....                              | 12 160        | 12 065        | 12 085        |
| Land and township development.....            | 3 981         | 2 330         | 3 983         |
| Net current assets.....                       | 5 595         | 1 718         | 3 414         |
| Current assets.....                           | <u>12 821</u> | <u>9 162</u>  | <u>9 695</u>  |
| Cash.....                                     | 9 007         | 775           | 6 136         |
| Other current assets.....                     | <u>3 814</u>  | <u>2 127</u>  | <u>3 555</u>  |
| Less current liabilities.....                 | <u>7 226</u>  | <u>1 414</u>  | <u>6 269</u>  |
|                                               | <b>88 991</b> | <b>84 819</b> | <b>86 028</b> |
| Share capital.....                            | 256           | 256           | 256           |
| Reserves.....                                 | 85 303        | 82 138        | 83 458        |
| Deferred liabilities and provisions.....      | 3 432         | 2 425         | 3 214         |
|                                               | <b>88 991</b> | <b>84 811</b> | <b>86 928</b> |
| <i>Investments</i>                            |               |               |               |
| Listed - Market value.....                    | 44 604        | 37 253        | 45 472        |
| - Excess over book value.....                 | 32 447        | 25 221        | 33 399        |
| - Book value.....                             | 12 157        | 12 052        | 12 082        |
| Unlisted - Book value.....                    | <u>3</u>      | <u>3</u>      | <u>3</u>      |
| Shares to issue unchanged at 10 224 550       |               |               |               |
| Net assets (as valued) per share - cents..... | 1 674         | 1 540         | 1 664         |
| Nil unvested.....                             |               |               |               |

**NOTES:**

1. **Dividends.**  
A dividend No. 147 of 30 cents per share, in respect of the six months ended 30 June 1996, absorbing R3 067 305/00, was declared on 30 July 1996 and paid on 11 September 1996.  
The interim dividend of 25 cents per share declared today for the six months ended 31 December 1996 is not comparable with the other dividends reflected above because of the change in financial year end. The last interim dividend, declared in respect of the six months ended 30 June 1995, was 20 cents per share.

## DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 148 of 25 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 7 February 1997. Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 26 February 1997, or where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 25 February 1997. The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the London Office of the company. The names of members will be closed from 8 February to 14 February 1997, inclusive.

On behalf of the board:  
J. G. Hupwood } Directors  
A. B. Houshron }



The Chancellor served notice on the interest rate gloom-mongers last week. He said that the strength of sterling was "the key thing" behind his decision not to raise interest rates. Since sterling is set to remain strong, talk of rates of 7 per cent or more by the end of the year will probably prove overly pessimistic. Although the gilt market is not out of the woods yet, the bears' picnic is unlikely to last beyond the election.

The Chancellor's emphasis on sterling was a clear snub to the Bank of England. The Treasury is plainly placing more weight than the Bank on the view that sterling's strength will hold down inflation.

Back in November, the Bank went out of its way in its *Inflation Report* to cast doubt on the anti-inflationary consequences of sterling's strength. At the time, Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said: "We should not set an easier monetary policy now because of sterling's strength."

The argument was that since sterling's strength partly reflected expectations of higher interest rates, failure to raise rates would prompt sterling to fall. Indeed, this line of reasoning led the Bank to argue

## Strong sterling is paving way for rally in UK bonds

that sterling's strength was "probably temporary".

Yet two months on, sterling has risen a further 7 per cent against the mark. Moreover, the decision not to raise rates last week did it no harm.

Unfortunately, the disinflationary benefits of sterling's strength, evident for some time in producer prices, are only just starting to come through at retail level. In the meantime, the Bank, and the markets, will continue to fret about the strength of the domestic economy.

Accelerating consumer spending, plummeting unemployment, rising house prices and ballooning monetary growth add up to a potent case for higher rates. As if that were not enough, uncertainty surrounding the general election may be reason in itself for buyers to shy away from gilts.

However, looking a little further ahead, sterling's strength helps to paint a brighter picture. By mid-

year, retail price inflation may embark on a solid downward trend. The benign influences of producer price inflation at a 30-year low and falling import prices should see it fall into the target range of 2.5 per cent or less by the end of the year.

By then, economic growth may be cooling off. As with inflation, sterling's strength will pay a vital role.

### GILT-EDGED

On a trade-weighted basis, sterling has risen 16 per cent in the past year, substantially eroding UK producers' price competitiveness. Tomorrow's CBI survey may show some of the damage that this has done to export orders. However, the full impact on the trade balance will not be clear until later in the year.

Sadly for the Chancellor, sterling's strength is unlikely to be enough on

its own to cool the economy down. Although it cannot be entirely ruled out, he will be lucky to entirely escape the clutches of the higher interest rate lobby. Yet — in spite of buoyant incomes and falling unemployment — heavy indebtedness and the still-pervasive sense of job insecurity suggest that even a half-point rise in interest rates could dampen spending dramatically.

However, higher interest rates are not the only alternative. Indeed, the situation cries out not for a monetary policy tightening, but for a fiscal policy tightening. The risk in raising interest rates is that sterling will be pushed higher still, creating a disproportionate squeeze on exporters. By contrast, a fiscal tightening would bear more heavily on the buoyant domestic economy.

On this, the Treasury and the Bank seem to be closer together. Even back in November, Mervyn King suggested that "there must be

a concern that if this exchange rate persists there will be a growing imbalance between domestic and export demand". Sterling's subsequent rally will have heightened such concern, and the prospect of further German interest rate cuts suggests that sterling will stay well above November's level.

Tightening fiscal policy is obviously off the agenda this side of a general election. Crucially, this will not be so after the election, even if current income tax rates remain sacrosanct. If Labour wins, there is a good chance of an early fiscal tightening in a swap budget soon after the election.

This would not only forestall the need for further interest rate rises, but would also accelerate the fall in public sector borrowing. A £4 billion fiscal tightening should ensure a PSBR in 1997-98 of £15 billion, £4 billion less than the official forecast. So the gilt market can no longer afford to ignore sterling. Although the impact on the economy and policy may not be clear yet, its strength is laying the foundations for gilts to rally later in the year.

MARK CLIFFE  
HSBC Markets

## A programme set in stone

Material World, Radio 3, 9.00pm.

I dare say most of us could have survived to a ripe old age without anyone inventing the term "built environment", which raises the question of what is the unbuilt environment and whether, for those who believe in God, any part of the environment is unbuilt. An issue, perhaps, for *The Moral Maze*. Meanwhile the question for *Material World* concerns the nature of the materials we take for granted, and a most fascinating exercise this new series promises to be. The first subject is stone, from Roman temples in Lebanon to the new Hindu temple in north London. The series features poetic as well as architectural rhapsodising.

Grantskilled Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm.

Those of us who enjoy football in spite of a disadvantage — being brought up on Plymouth Argyle — are rarely troubled by the absolute requirement to hear a radio programme, so I hope that mentioning this unusual occurrence will not seem self-indulgent. By the sort of miracle that makes football a game of chance, Plymouth reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup in 1996. All sports made great by its capacity to induce nostalgia and this series proves that through the voices of those who contrived their 15 (or 50) minutes of fame. It also makes wider points about the fragility of football management: Johnny Hoare, manager at the time, appears in tonight's programme. He was sacked the following season. Peter Barnard

# Star trader status loses its shine at Morgan Grenfell

Robert Miller looks into the repercussions of the high-profile suspension of Nicola Horlick

As City money managers and traders return to their desks and trading rooms in the Square Mile today the rights and wrongs of the Horlick case will continue to be hotly debated.

Sadly for Nicola Horlick, however, business will carry on as normal. It has to, both for the sake of Morgan Grenfell and for the fund management sector as a whole.

The reason is not hard to fathom. Increasingly these days, the so-called stars of the City are to be found managing money, as Mrs Horlick and her team did so successfully, rather than trading it on the foreign exchanges and securities markets. Profits from risky trading strategies, however well hedged, can bring rich rewards for individuals and their employers. But disasters can strike all too swiftly and are often accompanied by a precipitous plunge into the red.

British, American, European and Japanese finance houses have shown that they are prepared to spend millions to acquire the necessary managers and the critical mass to compete in the top league of global investment banks. The emphasis nowadays is on growing profits from managing pensions, insurance funds and unit and investment trusts rather than risky trading strategies.

Successful fund management teams, such as the one that Keith Percy, Mrs Horlick's boss, built at Morgan Grenfell before his departure in the wake of the Peter Young affair last autumn, will attract new business as well as keeping old clients happy. As the pool of money grows, so too will the stream of annual fees from managing the money.

Morgan Grenfell now faces pressure from two quarters. The Frankfurt head office of Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's owner, will expect Michael Dobson, the chief executive of Deutsche's British operations, and Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, to act decisively to keep clients and get Mrs Horlick's old team working together under Neil Dunford.

Others members of the Horlick team, which managed £18 billion of UK pension funds, such as Adrian Frost and Anthony Creighton, Charlie Curless and Frances Davis, will also play key roles in stabilising the unsettled situation. They must reassure trustees acting on behalf of pension funds, including local authorities and Westminster City Council and the Railways Pension Trustee Company, that the service that they have received will continue.

The majority of managers and trustees who have placed money in Morgan Grenfell's care have indicated that they are prepared to listen and watch as a first step. Any withdrawal of funds would have to be carefully managed and could not be achieved overnight. But every move will be scrutinised for evidence that without Mr Percy, and now Mrs Horlick, the performance magic has gone. After the colourful and high-profile antics surrounding the Horlick suspension and resignation last week, insiders at Morgan Grenfell are determined to eschew the "star" trader syndrome. Instead, the emphasis will be on "house-style" and "team effort".

The fate that befell the highly rated Mr Percy illustrates the pitfalls that await even the most venerable City houses that over-promote, however unwittingly, "exceptional" ability. Indirectly this led to the Horlick affair. After Nick Leeson wreaked his £830 million damage at Barings and before the Peter Young business at Morgan Grenfell, City watchdogs began a radical rethink on how far up the management chain responsibility could be attributed in the event of a scandal.

Neither Mr Percy nor Mrs Horlick had any knowledge of

how Mr Young, who is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation, broke City rules in managing two European funds. But Imro, the City regulator that is conducting its own inquiry into the breakdown of procedures, is determined to impress upon its charges and investors in general the responsibility borne by all senior managers within a group to be vigilant.

Imro, headed by Phillip Thorpe, is looking at the role played by Mr Percy, who received no payoff when he left Morgan Grenfell, and other senior managers and examining why the rule breaches were not detected earlier. Some time before Easter Imro is expected to announce that it has imposed a record-breaking fine on Morgan Grenfell, that could top £1 million, and

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Nicola Horlick, with seven-month old Antonia, the youngest of her five children, yesterday

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**BY HARVEY ELLIOTT**  
**AIR CORRESPONDENT**

**Pilots' pact, page 45**

She faces a potential capital gains tax liability of £22,000. Stafford Run-Off would comment on the case.

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